IBYCUS
(SIXTH CENTURY B.C.)

Greek lyric poet. Ibycus sprang from a noble family of Rhegium in Magna Grecia. His lyrical narrative poems liberally endowed myths with pederasty. Refusing to become a tyrant at home, he went to the court of the pederastic tyrant Polycrates. Wealthy from commerce and piracy, Polycrates raised Samos to the forefront of Hellenic art and literature. In fear of conspiracies, he burned the palestreia (gymnasia), forcing Pythagoras into exile, where he became one of the first homosexual exiles and émigrés. Soon thereafter the Persians crucified him in 522 and sent Ibycus and Simonides into exile, where Ibycus sang of love in his old age—especially of love for the tyrant’s son.

The Alexandrian scholars collected his poems in seven books: choral poems and encomia, and a great many love poems, hardly any of which have survived because of the ravages of time and Christian disapprobation. Cicero deemed him more amorous than Sappho’s compatriot Alcaeus—perhaps the first pederastic poet, or even Anacreon—and the Greek Anthology described him as one who “culled the sweet bloom of Persuasion and of the love of lads.” Because Horace, Catullus, and some poets of the Greek Anthology imitated him, one can derive a fair picture of his carefree, insouciant, promiscuous loves. To one of his eromenoi he wrote: “Euryalus, offshoot of charming graces, object of the fair-haired maidens’ care, Cypris and mild-eyed Persuasion have reared you in the midst of rosy flowers” (fr. 6).

William A. Percy

IDENTITY

Individual identity may be defined as a sense of the unity and persistence of personality or core consciousness, an awareness of a stable framework of self, related to but separate from the surrounding environment. One of the pitfalls of the term is that the existence of a sense of identity as so described may be considered tantamount to proof that such a unitary, persistent, stable self is an actual fact. This assumption has sometimes been rejected (e.g., by Buddhists). Psychologically, identity seems to be much more fluid objectively than subjectively. While the word is in common circulation, it remains an ambiguous term, and even to some psychologists a dangerously misleading one.

Basic Features. In 1690 the English philosopher John Locke wrote of identity in the psychological sense as “that sameness of rational being.” By 1820 Washington Irving had posited the idea of loss of identity in the case of a character who was not sure whether he was himself or another person. In the 1960s the psychoanalyst Erik Erikson popularized the notion of an “identity crisis” as an “interval between youth and adulthood” when one seeks to achieve an inner and outer coherence following a break away from the parent-derived identity and the beginnings of a new adult sense of self.

In addition to the concept of an individual identity, there is the notion of a group-derived but individually self-applied social identity which may be lifelong (e.g., being a female or an Italian) or may change over time (e.g., being a football player or a stockbroker). Group-derived identities are seldom unitary in any sense, as each indi-
individual feels a part of more than one group. A modern phenomenon seems to be an increasing tendency to build social identities around subcultures rather than local geographic units, nations, classes, and occupations.

Sexual Aspects. Today, some gay liberation spokespeople perceive the process of coming out as one of forging a gay identity which supersedes or takes precedence over all other group-derived identity; others reject this view as reflecting an excessive separatism, regarding the homosexual element in personality as not radically different from the identity-derived elements predominant in heterosexuals. The gay-identity position has also come under attack from a neo-nominalism that insists that scientifically there is no such thing as a "homosexual" as a noun, but rather the word can only be used as an adjective describing a kind of behavior open to any human being; the advocates of this position would not, however, deny the existence of a (sub)culturally-constructed sense of identity independent of scientific standing.

Some prefer to address the question in terms of self-concept. Yet is the self unitary, or a bundle of subselves, or lacking in substance altogether? The second and third formulations may explain some aspects of cognitive dissonance with respect to homosexuality, as seen in the case of the late Roy Cohn, a protagonist in the McCarthy hearings, who seemed both to deny and to affirm his homosexuality. This phenomenon may be also be explained if one thinks of the self as a mediator between public identity or persona ("normal") and the private identity (in some individuals, expressed only in fantasies). There are other individuals, such as the poet John Berryman (1914–1972), whose homosexual side emerges only in alcoholic bouts, but here it may be more properly said that it was his behavior which was otherwise repressed, not his identity. If Berryman had acted homosexually whether drunk or sober, but only felt himself to be gay when drunk, then one could speak of a repressed identity.

Homosexual behavior need not be related to identity at all, but may be seen as a casual or situational or revenue-producing activity only. To take a clear case, the macho prisoner who uses another male as a substitute female until he is released never deals with any sense of homosexual identity, peripheral or central, public or private. There seems to be a requirement for a socially mediated model of "homosexual identity" which an individual can conceive of applying to himself before the question can even arise. Perhaps relevant here is the question of a "bisexual identity" which has often arisen in individuals without reference to a group or subculture at all, but based on models provided by the general culture.

In the integrative process that occurs with the acknowledgement of one's homosexual identity and its management in the course of life, it may have varying degrees of centrality. How does homosexuality migrate from one personality region, say from a peripheral one to a central one and then out again? How does it achieve the status of a master identity, only perhaps to become less dominant later? Perhaps such questions must await answers to more preliminary enigmas such as how sexual orientation itself can change over the course of time.

Clearly many questions remain for further research. Since the matters discussed in this article are among the thorniest addressed by the human sciences, one cannot expect that perfect clarity will be soon achieved—and perhaps it never will.


Stephen Donaldson

IMMATURITY THEORY

When confronted with a teenager's homosexuality or lesbianism, parents will often exclaim, "It's just a phase. S/he will grow out of it." While this view reflects popular ideas of personality growth, it also finds a learned prop in the psychoanalytic idea that human bisexuality is a halfway house along a path that is always directed toward a final goal of heterosexual maturity. In keeping with this premise the persistence of a homosexual pattern in adult life is ascribed to "arrested development."

The immaturity notion also accords with the folkloric view that a "little experimentation" is permissible, as long as it does not "become a habit." This motif borders on the concept of deviant sex as self-indulgence, a flight from the serious responsibilities imposed by raising a family. In clinical sessions psychiatrists have had recourse to the reproach of immaturity as a lever to induce young clients to give up their homosexuality.

Of course there are individuals who try a few homosexual acts in youth and, having then found that this is not where their major interest lies, come to live essentially heterosexual lives. Other young people, aware of the stigma that still attaches to homosexuality, cling to the immaturity notion as a device of denial, refusing to accept as long as they can their homosexual orientation. In the recent past, some of these persons would contract a heterosexual marriage in hopes of putting the "immaturity" behind them. Such expedients have rarely been successful. This denial can result in unhappiness both for those who embrace it and for others who are emotionally and socially involved with them.

Conceptually, the immaturity theory makes an incongruous contrast with its opposite, satiation.

IMMIGRATION

Today's world has become concerned with immigration, not only because millions have migrated but also because the rise of the modern state and its definition of nationality has made the matter fraught with complications. Homosexuals live in a certain degree of tension with the environing society and have fewer ties to keep them rooted in the communities where they grew up. For this reason, they tend to migrate, not just to large cities with their convenient anonymity, but even across national borders. In the past, conflict with the law often sent homosexual men in precipitous flight to escape long prison terms or even a lynch mob, while voluntary exile amounted to a commutation of a severe penalty: in either case the individual whose homosexual activity was exposed ceased to be a member of society. If he was fortunate, he might settle in another part of world where his past was unknown and could not easily be discovered; and here, too, he could resume the series of casual liaisons that had become part of his lifestyle.

A visit of few days as part of a vacation trip is technically an act of immigration, even if the foreigner has no intention of residing permanently or becoming a citizen of the host country; and many are the homosexuals who either prefer exotic sexual partners or, possessing discretionary income but without families to accompany them, enjoy travel abroad, even to distant lands, in search of erotic adventures or pleasures denied them in the communities where they reside.

The Evolution of American Law. Homosexuality as an issue for the authorities that control immigration, in the United States the Immigration and Naturaliza-
tion Service (INS), did not arise until the second decade of the twentieth century, for the simple reason that in the nineteenth century homosexuality as a psychiatric entity was unknown to the general public. There were, however, laws that sought to bar the movement of prostitutes and particularly the white slave traffic which had assumed international dimensions on the eve of World War I. Inside the United States the Mann Act of 1910 made it a crime to transport a female across state lines “for immoral purposes,” while the movement to restrict immigration from Europe gathered support in the hinterland which resented the growing clusters of new arrivals from eastern and southern Europe in the large cities.

The first comprehensive revision of the immigration laws came with the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1917, which denied entry to persons certified by an examining physician as “mentally defective” or afflicted with a “constitutional psychopathic inferiority.” However, because the concept of homosexuality as a psychological condition was still new, the Board of Immigration Appeals excluded only those aliens who confessed to committing, or had been convicted of, homosexual acts involving moral turpitude. In 1947 the Senate began an investigation into the entire immigration system, and in 1950, when Senator Joseph R. McCarthy had made “sex perverts in government” a political issue, Senator McCarran of Nevada and Representative Walter of Pennsylvania introduced a bill that added “homosexuals and other sex perverts” to the class of medically excludable aliens. The Senate Judiciary Committee dropped the phrase from the bill primarily because of the objection raised by the Public Health Service that some difficulty would be encountered in substantiating the diagnosis of homosexuality and sexual perversion. Its report did, however, state that the Public Health Service had asserted that “the provision for the exclusion of aliens afflicted with a psychopathic or a mental defect” was “sufficiently broad to provide for the exclusion of homosexuals and sex perverts,” and also specified that the “change in nomenclature” was “not to be construed in any way as modifying the intent to exclude all aliens who are sexual deviates.” The revised bill was passed by Congress to become the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

The new law was enacted, it should be stressed, not just because the American Psychiatric Association and a majority of the medical profession considered homosexuality a mental illness, but also because they had no objection to any measure that deprived homosexuals of rights in civil and administrative law. This is a classic instance of how religious sanctions were in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries rationalized as pseudo-medical or pseudo-biological norms so that a policy of discrimination and exclusion could be justified in the eyes of the public. It was only the advocacy of measures for greater toleration that provoked the ire and indignation of the psychiatric “experts” of that day.

The issue of whether the expression “psychopathic personality” included homosexuality was soon raised, and the courts in looking at the legislative history of the Immigration and Nationality Act reached a consensus that Congress intended to include homosexuals within the term “psychopathic personality” regardless of the medical profession’s understanding of the term. However, in a 1962 case a Federal appellate court did hold that the expression “psychopathic personality” was void on account of vagueness as it did not provide a “sufficiently definite warning that homosexuality and sexual perversion are embraced therein.” It subsequently set aside a deportation order on the ground that homosexual aliens could not be excluded as “persons afflicted with psychopathic personality.”

The liberal Congress elected at the time of Lyndon Johnson’s landslide victory in 1964 responded to this decision
by amending the law to add the term "sexual deviation" to the roster of excludable medical afflictions, and the Supreme Court, in *Boutilier v. Immigration & Naturalization Service* (1967) ruled that Congress intended the expression "psychopathic personality" to exclude homosexual aliens, stating that Congress had used the expression not in any clinical sense, but as a term of art designed to achieve its goal of exclusion. Case law further established that an integral part of the statutory scheme is the issuance of a "class A" certificate—a medical determination of "sexual deviation," and the Supreme Court held that an order of exclusion could not be issued unless the alien had been labeled with the requisite Public Health Service certificate. It did not raise the procedural issue of whether the INS could simply bar homosexuals who had not been so certified.

The *Legal Impasse*. In the wake of the decision of the American Psychiatric Association to drop homosexuality from its nomenclature of mental illnesses, the United States Surgeon General in 1979 notified the INS that the Public Health Service would no longer furnish the medical certification required for the exclusionary procedure, and instructed Public Health Service medical officers that they should not certify homosexual aliens as psychopathic personalities or sexual deviates solely on the basis of their homosexual orientation. The INS, in response to legal advice from the Justice Department that it was still required by law to enforce the exclusion of homosexual aliens, adopted the practice of excluding only those aliens who are identified as homosexual by a third party arriving at the same time, or who offer an unsolicited, unambiguous admission of homosexuality and repeat that admission in a second interview. An affirmative answer at the second hearing will result in a formal exclusionary hearing that may result in a denial of entry. This procedure allows for exclusion in the absence of the medical examination and certificate.

Faced with a new situation in administrative practice, the appellate courts have split over the issue of whether Congress has the power to exclude homosexual aliens under the new, non-medical procedure. The ultimate solution of the dilemma rests with Congress itself, but when the issue of homosexual rights became clouded by the problem of AIDS, support for repeal of the measure denying admission to the United States of aliens suspected of being homosexual became politically far more difficult. In practice most immigration officials and consuls attempt to avoid any direct confrontation with a law that bars any and all homosexuals by ignoring it rather than excluding homosexual celebrities on the basis of an absurd statute.

In 1985 the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization Law of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York formally reported that "The United States, alone among all the nations of the world, statutorily excludes homosexual persons from admission into the country for any purpose whatsoever, from casual visitor to would-be permanent resident. It is now time to correct that anomaly by removing homosexuality as a ground for exclusion from the United States."


*Warren Johansson*

**IMPERSONAL SEX AND CASUAL SEX**

"Impersonal sex" refers to intercourse between two or more human beings who, for the sexual act considered, treat
each other simply as a means to the goal of sexual pleasure. What makes sex impersonal is not the individuals involved, nor their relationships outside the sex act. A sex act is impersonal when it omits any expression of the traditional romantic attraction and longterm commitment expected of such acts in conventional Western society. Outside the designated sexual activity, individuals involved in impersonal sex may range, in familiarity, from lifelong partners to mere acquaintances to absolute strangers. There may be special pleasure in impersonal sex with someone who, at other times, is an intimate friend. A number of slave-master scenarios revolve around play-acting that an intimate partner is to be treated purely as a sexual outlet.

Impersonal sex is not the same as "casual sex." The distinctive element of casual sex, as in casual labor (for instance, temporary office help), is uncertainty about whether there will be another encounter with the same partner, and if so when. Casual sex can be quite personal in the intimacy of encounter between personalities as well as bodies. Impersonal sex, by contrast, avoids intimate personal exchanges (e.g., conversation is minimal or nonexistent) and total bodily interaction (e.g., elaborate and affectionate foreplay).

Comparative Perspectives. Impersonal sex occurs in heterosexual relationships where there is no expression of endearment, commitment, or love, but merely the purpose of consummating marriage, conceiving children, or solidifying property, nobility and other social bonds. But its most frequent heterosexual occurrence is for the same purpose as among homosexuals: the attainment of sexual release. A couple married for years may no longer take any pleasure from sexual congress, yet continue it. Foreplay may be entirely absent, and intercourse resented, yet conceded as a marital duty.

The institutional facilities of both casual and impersonal heterosexual range through history—from ancient Roman baths and Renaissance bordellos to the whorehouses of the American gold rush, mobile prostitution units of armies in World War I, and Plato's Retreat, operating in New York in the 1970s, where men and women could meet each other for sex. But both impersonal and casual sex occur with greater frequency, per capita, among homosexuals, for an obvious reason: there is no possibility of pregnancy. For almost all of human history, women have had few means or opportunities to prevent pregnancy. In addition, most religions have treated sex as primarily a way of "making babies," and some have even treated enjoyment of sexual activity for its own sake as a sin. The history of sexual mores would certainly be different if men got pregnant. Males have had to bear much less of the burden of third-party consequences (childbearing, child-raising, punishment by others for illegitimacy) arising from sex outside marriage.

Third-party consequences of sexual acts are significantly reduced in homosexual sex, so it can be enjoyed for its intrinsic pleasure, if allowed to go unpunished. Each participant may enter the activity with no desire for relationship beyond that required to enjoy and complete the sex act. These facts make many moralists determined to punish homosexual sex even more severely than heterosexual illegitimacy.

Wherever in history and society homosexual activity has been condemned as wrong, it has been sought in covert encounters among networks of those who are "wise" to the activity. Fear of detection has thereby discouraged long-term relationships among homosexuals. Thus, a combination of factors has in many Western societies produced a type of homosexual activity in which each partner behaves, and expects the other to behave, in a noncommittal manner.

Lesbians, as women, are more likely to be socialized into the conventional morality that sex is for making babies in a lifelong, monogamous relationship.
Gay males are more likely to share the heterosexual double standard of sexual behavior, which requires male conformity to the conventional morality in marriage but tolerates (and in locker room talk, often encourages) casual and impersonal sex. Thus, more impersonal sex occurs among gay men than lesbians, and the remainder of this discussion applies largely to males.

Territorial Aspects. The development of specific gay territories in which homosexuals could locate each other also tended to facilitate both casual sex and impersonal sex, since participants would often be drawn there for sexual outlet, without expectation of meeting a partner for a longer relationship. In casual sex, anonymity is not necessary or facilitative, but for impersonal sex, anonymity is a safety element in participation, and the anonymity of sex partners obviously contributes to the impersonal quality of the sexual intercourse. Prior to AIDS, some gay bars and bathhouses included “orgy rooms” where patrons engaged in sex with numerous strangers in pitch-dark and crowded rooms.

Activities and Attitudes. Impersonal gay sex is more likely to include a higher proportion of activity of a less physically joining kind, such as oral sex and masturbation. Participants will often remain fully clothed, and physical barriers to body contact add to the impersonal quality: the toilet “glory hole” in a partition is a prime example. Danger of discovery often means that sexual outlet has to be reached quickly, with a minimum of foreplay and special preparation, and with postures least likely to prove compromising should discovery occur.

It is entirely possible for two [or more] people to have intimate and very pleasurable sexual intercourse without revealing anything about their social identities—and to repeat this pleasure again and again over time, while still remaining anonymous. Once a quality of personal encounter develops (conversation not directly related to intercourse, formal arrangements for the sexual locale) such a sexual relationship may continue to be casual but often ceases to be impersonal.

The 1960s and 1970s were the modern “golden age” of impersonal gay male sex, since they came after penicillin and before AIDS. With the possible exception of some instances of hepatitis there was no significant sexually-transmitted disease during those decades which could not be treated, and usually cured. The first scholarly study to use the term “impersonal sex” reflects an ethnography obtained in a gay bathhouse [Weinberg and Williams, 1975].

As this and subsequent studies have noted, impersonal sex requires both psychological and sociological structures. The participants must have sufficient self-direction to break free of sex-negative, sex-restricting mores. They must be capable of adopting the same attitude to the consumption of sexual pleasure which one would normally adopt to eating. No sane person expects to limit eating to one food source for a lifetime, to eat only in formal personal settings, and to eat only to avoid starvation. We often eat food quickly, casually and for sheer pleasure, not to reduce any real hunger. Adopting the same attitude to sex is not easy in our society.

We are conditioned to associate sex with romantic love and long-term relationship. Impersonal sex requires the detachment of sexual excitement from personal identification with others, especially if many partners are to be enjoyed and jealousy is to be avoided (it greatly spoils the fun). The pursuit of impersonal sex requires considerable knowledge about and concern for sexual health, if one is to avoid contracting and passing on sexually transmitted diseases, but conventional morality has often opposed “sex education.”

Even if an individual acquires the necessary psychological and health information and attitudes, impersonal sex will not be enjoyed widely in the majority of North American communities. Its practice
by one community member would be regarded as threatening and immoral by other members, unless extremely discreet and covert, and therefore restricted in frequency. But in the modern era, and especially after the Stonewall Rebellion (1969), the gay male population of large urban centers became the base for development of a system of sexual marketplaces where impersonal sex was both welcomed and frequently facilitated.

These places offered relative safety from view and harassment by the forces of conventional morality, as well as opportunities for encounter on a basis of casual entry and exit, without the need to identify oneself or seek the permission of others (as would be required, for example, in a private heterosexual "swinger’s club"). Preeminent among such social facilities were the gay bar and the gay baths, but these were soon joined by the gay disco, where dancing with strangers was a means of recruiting new partners for both casual and impersonal sex.

These and similar social institutions of the emerging gay community differed importantly from earlier facilities for impersonal sex such as the public toilet, cruising park, movie theatre back row, and highway rest area. The gay bar, disco, and bath are businesses with an economic base and linkages, thus providing an infrastructure with vested interest in the facilitation of impersonal sex, within an organized and institutionally complex gay community.

"Ideology." It was only a short step to the development of ideology arguing the legitimacy of such institutions, and of impersonal gay sex. But it should hardly be assumed that the voices for legitimation are only of modern origin. The first "handbook" for guidance of those seeking the right attitudes and favorable opportunities for casual and impersonal sex was published by Ovid in the year A.D. 1: The Art of Love.

The modern gay ideology of impersonal sex spilled over into the heterosexual culture, and even produced publications on "how to pick up men" for women readers. But casual heterosexuality was almost always linked with negative moral outcomes. Alix and his male peers might seek sex merely for pleasure, but were condemned to the same fate as their patron saint, Don Juan. Women might pick up Mr. Goodbar, but were sure to be injured or murdered.

The social structures of impersonal sex have been affected dramatically by the onset of AIDS. Indeed, much of the moralistic sentiment that AIDS is a punishment of homosexuals can be traced to conventional morality's outrage at the earlier sexual liberation ideology of impersonal sex.


John Alan Lee

INCARCERATION MOTIF

This term refers not to literal incarceration or confinement but to an aspect of gender dysphoria—the idea that a human body can contain, locked within itself, a soul of the other gender. In their adhesion to this self-concept, many pre- and postoperative transsexuals unknowingly echo a theme that has an age old, though recondite history.

The pioneer in the struggle for homosexual rights Karl Heinrich Ulrichs (1824–1895) formulated the notion that the Urning, as he called the male individual attracted to his own sex, was endowed with anima muliebris corpore virili inclusa, "a female soul trapped in a male body." He took the notion from Eros: die Männerliebe der Griechen (Clarus and St. Gall, 1836–38) by Heinrich Hoessli. This Swiss homosexual writer had in turn pur-
loined it from an article in the Beilage to the Munich Allgemeine Zeitung that discussed the kabbalistic belief in the transmigration of souls [gilgul naphshot].

Foreign as this idea is to the rationalistic Jew of the twentieth century, and to the Biblical and Talmudic periods of Judaism as well, it is first mentioned by Saadia Gaon (882–942), the spiritual leader of Babylonian Jewry, who rejected it as an alien doctrine that had found its way into Judaism from the Islamic cultural milieu. However, the belief in transmigration took firm hold in the earliest center of Kabbalistic thinking in Spain, Gerona in Catalonia, and the notion that a female soul might be reincarnated in a male body is first expressed by Jacob ben Sheshet Gerondi (about 1235) in a work entitled Liqqūṭe shikhkhū hū-phe'ah [Gleanings of the Forgotten and Unharvested], printed at Ferrara in 1556. Later, Isaac ben Solomon Luria (1534–1572), the head of the kabbalistic center at Safed in Galilee, made it an essential part of his doctrine. His oral teaching was incorporated in a book written by his disciple Hayyim Vital between 1573 and 1576 entitled Sha’ar ha-gilgūlim (The Gate of Transmigrations).

According to the Kabbalists, the absolute destiny of the soul is—after developing all those perfections the germs of which are eternally implanted in it—to return to the Infinite Source from which it first emanated. Another term of life must be vouchsafed to those souls that have not yet fulfilled their destiny in the nether world and have not been sufficiently purified for the state of reunion with the Primordial Cause. Hence the soul must inhabit one body after another until after repeated trials it is able to ascend to the "palace of the Heavenly King." In the second half of the thirteenth century the Zohar had declared: "All souls are subject to transmigration," and Luria further taught that in general, the souls of men transmigrate into the bodies of men, those of women into the bodies of women; but there are exceptions. The soul of the patri-

arch Judah was in part that of a woman, while Tamar had the soul of a man [a fanciful interpretation of the story in Genesis 38: 12–26]. Tamar's soul passed into Ruth, so that the latter could not bear children until God had imparted to her sparks from a female soul. The transmigration of a man's soul into the body of a woman was considered by some Kabbalists a punishment for the commission of heinous sins, such as man's refusing to give alms or to communicate his own wisdom to others. The wide diffusion and reception of the Lurianic version of the Kabbala ensured that many Jews of a mystical bent would entertain the belief down to modern times.

Belief in metempsychosis, or the transmigration of souls, is a characteristic theme of Indian thought, from which the Jewish motif that has been discussed may ultimately derive. Some Hindus today explain male homosexuality by saying that the individual had previously lived as a woman.

Ulrichs' formulation, strictly speaking, applies only to the "subject homoerotic"—the individual who feels himself a member of the opposite sex and plays the female role in relations with members of his own sex. As a scientific theory such a notion, because of the mind–body dualism which it entails (not to mention the belief in reincarnation, which has been relegated to the realm of the occult), has no standing whatever. Yet the reiteration of Ulrichs' views in the work of later homosexual apologists kept them alive into the twentieth century, and may have contributed to the rise of the practice of transsexualism and its underlying belief system, which Magnus Hirschfeld (1868–1935) never encountered even in the enormous casuistic material that he assembled in his lifetime. Pre- and postoperative transsexuals cherish the belief that some quirk of nature has confined them in bodies of the wrong genital sex. In the Hollywood film Dog Day Afternoon (1975), which was based upon a real
Incarnation Motif

Incident in Brooklyn a few years earlier, the character Leon asserts that "My psychiatrist told me I have a female soul trapped in a male body," and more recently even advertising has taken up the theme, as in a telephone company poster with a cartoon character declaring "I feel that I’m 516 trapped in the body of a 212." So a doctrine of medieval Jewish mysticism has entered the folklore of the gay subculture, and thence passed into the mainstream of American popular culture as a metaphor for a profound state of alienation. Warren Johansson

Incest

Incest means sexual intercourse between closely related individuals, especially when they are related within degrees where marriage is prohibited by law or religious custom. Until recently the sexual abuse of sons by their fathers was considered rare, but in the later decades of the twentieth century a different picture emerged. Statistics drawn from child welfare agencies, schools, police reports, and general surveys indicate that considerable numbers of boys are involved in homosexual activity with their own fathers. David Finkelhor’s analysis of data derived from 5,809 substantiated cases of child abuse reported by agencies in thirty-one states indicated that 57 percent of the 757 boys in the group were abused by their fathers. It is probable that the twin taboos attaching to homosexuality and incest result in the underreporting of such cases.

Problems of Interpretation. Clinical studies of father-son incest are few, and the reported case histories often lack sufficient data to develop descriptive models. Many cases significantly fail to describe the actual nature of the sexual contact, and the literature on incest equally fails to employ strict criteria. Is the mere touching of the child’s genitalia a sexual act, or must the adult’s contact with the child’s body lead to sexual arousal and then orgasm in one or both partners? The law often demands a more stringent definition of the act in order to justify conviction.

While sexual contact between fathers and daughters is now recognized as more frequent than most authorities had suspected, the line of demarcation between reality and fantasy remains difficult to draw. The same consideration applies to instances of alleged father-son incest. Several cases have been reported in which homosexual incest occurred in an apparently disorganized family situation where impulsive, physically abusive behavior by the father was the norm. These fathers sexually exploited their children, often both sons and daughters. The age of the son at the time of the initial sexual contact was usually prepubertal.

In one reported case a father with a record of convictions for manslaughter, bootlegging, and sale of pornography promoted sexual relations between the two oldest children and himself and his stepdaughter for pornographic ends. In another, the eldest son in a family of six children confided to his therapist the family secret that his father had sexually molested all six children over a period of ten years. When the father was in a violent temper, the eldest son or daughter would offer his or her sexual favors to protect the younger children from cruelty.

The father’s alcoholism is an outstanding feature in some cases. Though often appearing homosexual in orientation, these fathers often do not so define themselves. One reported case describes sexual involvements between a father and his fourteen-year-old son that ranged from genital fondling to anal penetration. The father initiated the sexual activity, each time in a state of intoxication. Both father and son denied any previous homosexual encounters or desires.

Another set of cases in the literature describes the father as having some positive emotional investment in the son with whom he has sexual contact. Aggres-
sion does not accompany the sexual act. The fathers in some instances deny the homosexual character of the relationship, maintain that it was only an expression of love, and express the usual contempt for homosexual men as weak and effeminate.

On the other hand, there are also reported cases in which the son is gradually drawn into the homosexual life style of the father, at times after having independent homosexual experience on his own. A remarkable account of three generations of father-son incest in one family where this behavior seemed to be accepted centered upon a father who was a professor and theatre director. Another case involved an eighteen-year-old who began his homosexual career six years earlier, welcomed his father's advances, and even described him as his "best lover."

The clinical picture of the father in cases of homosexual incest does not offer the profile of a "symbiotic" relationship between him and his son. In the cases that describe the triadic relationship between father, mother, and son, the father's incestuous behavior appears unrelated to the quality of his marital relationship. The sexual needs of the father in sexual contact with his son are less those which the wife cannot fulfill than those which he is afraid to express outside the home or with strangers.

Social Response. Public welfare agencies receive far fewer reports of homosexual than of heterosexual incest. This disparity reflects cultural factors such as the male ethic of self-reliance joined with the child's fear that if he reveals an incident his own independence and activities might be restricted. Because all studies indicate that most abuse of male children is by a partner of the same sex, a double stigma emerges in the violation of the taboo against homosexuality as well as of the prohibition of sexual contact between adults and children.

Follow-up studies of homosexual incest are rare. Studies of prostitutes of both sexes often elicit the assertion that they had been physically and sexually abused in their childhood. A recent investigation has found that the predominance of psychopathology reported in cases of father-son incest was higher than in all other pairings with the exception of sister-sister incest. The association of father-son incest with serious psychopathology, however, appears to be the pattern in this type of liaison. During the period of victimization or shortly thereafter the son often displays behavior revealing serious emotional disorder.

The therapist dealing with father-son incest must allow his professional diagnosis and treatment to be guided by an understanding of interplay between the intrapsychic and environmental factors in the situation. The psychological history of the father is of paramount importance. Some fathers act on impulses that are pansexual, others are responding to homosexual urges. Non-judgmental professional assistance can enable males involved in homosexual incest to face their own sexual orientation and to manage in a socially less dysfunctional manner the erotic component of their interaction with other members of the family. Family therapy may also be needed to enable all members of the family to cope with the sequelae of the incestuous behavior. At the same time, it cannot be denied that some adults, even if they are heterosexual or bisexual, are not fit or desirable parents; they do not have the personality structures that make for successful parenthood. Marriage counseling that would dissuade such individuals from ever having offspring would better serve the interests of society than belated measures to repair harm already inflicted.

Cross-Cultural Parallels. The taboo on homosexual behavior promulgated by the Abrahamic religions has led researchers to overlook the fact that the primary core of prohibitions in Leviticus 18 included two that were specifically directed against sexual relations with one's father (18:7) and one's father's brother
(18:14), and Orthodox Judaism recognizes these as two distinct commandments of the traditional 613. If Leviticus 18:22 had already existed, these provisions would have been otiose. The story of Ham and Noah in Genesis 9:20–24 is a euphemistically worded account of father-son incest, of aggression by Ham, "the father of Canaan," who "saw the nakedness of his father." The narrator then deploys this primal violation of patriarchal morality—the first homosexual episode in the Bible—to justify the conquest and subjugation of the descendents of Ham by the invading Israelites; it is an erotic legend with a political tendency.

All human societies forbid incest, not for supposed biological reasons, but simply because the prohibition of sexual relations between kinsmen is part of the operational definition of the family. Family status includes both the right to have sexual intercourse with other members of the family and the rigorous denial of that right. The code of sexual morality in Leviticus 18 is a compact among the male members of the patriarchal family not to transgress one another's sexual rights and prerogatives, a code which the primitive Church ratified and made part of its own constitution (Acts 15:20, 29). Thus homosexual aggression and incest have been culturally defined as perennial problems for the social order.


INCIDENCE, FREQUENCY, AND THE KINSEY 0–6 SCALE

Soon after Alfred Kinsey began tabulating the sex data he was collecting in the 1940s it became obvious that several new modes of analyzing it would be necessary, both for clarity and to avoid confusion. For instance, to show how easy and feasible homosexual contacts are for "the human animal" as Kinsey liked to say, it was necessary to determine their incidence—that is, how many people's sex histories contained at least one such experience to the point of orgasm.

Likewise, an accumulative incidence figure was needed to indicate what percentage of the histories reflected at least one such homosexual experience by each age (a gradually rising curve since additional individuals each year either "come out" or try out such activity). These group data also made it possible to draw a curve that would accurately estimate how many subjects would eventually have at least one overt homosexual experience. As Kinsey put it (1948, p. 623), "at least 37% of the male population has some homosexual experience between the beginning of adolescence and old age.... This is more than one male in three of the persons that one may meet as he passes along a city street."

But of course, a single experience does not a homosexual make (even though a sizable portion of lay observers has always been ready to assume so). Nor, in any case, does an incidence figure reflect when and how often homosexual experiences may be repeated—thus the need for some measure of frequency. Frequency figures were determined by ascertaining in each history how many and how often homosexual contacts (to the point of orgasm) were experienced by or before age fifteen, as well as during each five-year period thereafter, through age 55.

However, since homosexuality can exist as a psychological response (sometimes in the absence of any kind of overt activity of the kinds noted by incidence or frequency figures), Kinsey also devised his famous Heterosexual-Homosexual scale from 0 to 6:
0 = entirely heterosexual.
1 = largely heterosexual, but with incidental homosexual history.
2 = largely heterosexual, but with a distinct homosexual history.
3 = equally heterosexual and homosexual.
4 = largely homosexual, but with distinct heterosexual history.
5 = largely homosexual, but with incidental heterosexual history.
6 = entirely homosexual. [Kinsey, 1953, p. 470]

As indicated, this scale not only takes into account differences in the balance between heterosexual and homosexual actions, but also allows an investigator to consider "psychologic reactions" in arriving at each rating. Thus two people might both be rated "6" for being exclusively homosexual, with one of them living out his or her experiences, while the other might have as little as no overt activity of this kind—for reasons ranging from moral inhibitions to simply a lack of opportunity.

Ordinarily, it is easy to arrive at a single rating for a person's mental and physical responses. But whenever the two are in sharp discord (such as when a man has most or all of his sexual activity with women, but requires homosexual fantasies to actually reach orgasm), there is much to criticize in the compromises implicit in the 0–6 Scale. (To such complaints Kinsey simply pointed out that while rating difficulties and imperfections are, indeed, apparent in some cases, it is nevertheless useful, the best rating device so far, and that more is gained by using than by ignoring it.)

The combination of applying these measures of incidence, of frequency, and of placement on the 0–6 Scale (tabulated yearly or for a lifetime) not only permitted the Kinsey Research to cast out oversimplified stereotypes long used in defining heterosexual and homosexual variations, but to offer a variety of samples of its white male population, among them that:

58 percent of the males who belong to the group that goes into high school but not beyond, 59 percent of the grade school level, and 47 percent of the college level have had homosexual experience to the point of orgasm if they remain single to the age of 35.

13 percent of males react erotically to other males without having overt homosexual contacts after the onset of adolescence. (This 13 percent, coupled with the 37 percent who do have overt homosexual experience, means that a full 50 percent of males have at least some sexual response to other males after adolescence—and conversely, that only the other 50 percent of the male population is entirely heterosexual throughout life.)

25 percent of the male population has more than incidental homosexual experience or reactions (i.e., rates 2–6) for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55.

18 percent of males have at least as much homosexual as heterosexual experience in their histories (i.e., rate 3–6) for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55.

13 percent of the male population has more homosexual than heterosexual experience (i.e., rates 4–6) for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55.

8 percent of males are exclusively homosexual (i.e., rate 6) for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55.

4 percent of males are exclusively homosexual throughout their lives after the onset of adolescence. (Kinsey, 1948, pp. 650–51)

Here, as elsewhere, data concerning homosexuality is cited for males rather than for females, not out of "male bias" but mainly because equivalent female data often cannot be understood without extensive additional explanation. Orgasm, for instance, is fundamental to virtually all overt male sexuality, while with females, psychological arousal, overt sexual action, and actual orgasm are often discon-
CERTAINLY APART. IN FACT, ORGASM IS REACHED IN ONLY ABOUT HALF OF FEMALE HOMOSEXUAL CONTACTS (AND IN A STILL SMALLER PORTION OF FEMALE HETEROSEXUAL CONTACTS).

Moreover, female sexuality tends to be far more pliant, and thus more changeable, than equivalent male responses. Thus while the sexual revolution made no appreciable change in the male percentages cited above (Gebhard, 1969), certain changes in female responses, especially regarding homosexual try-outs, have been noted subsequent to Kinsey’s 1953 findings (Bartell, 1971; Tripp, pp. 271, 272). The reasons for these and a host of other complex matters in both male and female sexuality continue to intrigue sex researchers, and continue to validate the Kinsey 0–6 Scale as a much needed and appreciated measuring and descriptive device.


C. A. TRIPP

INDIA

The Republic of India includes over 800 million people crowded onto the Indian subcontinent, an appendage of the Asian mainland which it shares with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. Historically, the Indian cultural zone has included all of the subcontinent as well as the island of Sri Lanka, and at times large areas of Southeast Asia, though India’s political boundaries have been a frequently shifting kaleidoscope.

Attitudes toward Sex. Indian history, geography, and demography all exhibit a rich diversity of traits, making generalizations hazardous. Sexual attitudes and practices also show considerable variation, ranging from the classic sex-affirming Kamasutra to the world-famous erotic sculptures of ancient temples to the extreme prudishness of ascetics who condemned all forms of seminal emission and a modern educated elite which still derives its inspiration from Victorian England.

Shakuntala Devi observed in 1977 that “any talk concerning homosexuality is altogether taboo” and that “serious investigations on this subject in India are almost nil.” This taboo, which applies with somewhat less rigor to discussion of sex in general, can be traced back to at least the British colonial occupation of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Independence, which came in 1947, has done nothing to loosen it.

The strength of this taboo is such as to lead noted Indologist Wendy O’Flaherty to describe India as “a country that has never acknowledged the existence of homosexuality.” While Giti Thadani was right to call this observation “factually incorrect” in an unpublished paper, as a broad generalization it is not so far from the truth; one must search far and wide to find the exceptions.

Any discussion of homosexuality in India must be placed against the background of the Indian social system, which is centered on the extended family. The first obligation of any Indian is to his or her family, not to his own goals. Everyone is expected to marry (as arranged by the families) and procreate sons. Until the marriage takes place (often to a complete stranger), the modern Indian of either sex is expected to remain celibate and avoid masturbation, though some allowance is made for the involvement of males with female prostitutes. Nevertheless, there
may be a significant amount of well-hidden homosexual activity among unmarried boys and young men.

_Ancient India._ The oldest surviving literature is the set of scriptures called the Vedas, the first of which (the _Rig-Veda_) is usually dated from 1500 to 1200 B.C. These texts were composed by the Aryans who invaded India from Central Asia. A common view is that of the Czech scholar Ivo Fiser, who reviewed their references to sex and concluded that “in the Vedic period... homosexuality, in either of the sexes, was almost completely unknown and if there were such cases, the Vedic literature ignores them.”

Later, but still ancient legal and religious texts, however, starting with Buddhist codes going back at least to the third century B.C., seem to take homosexuality for granted as a rather minor part of common life. The Buddhist monastic code cites various instances of homosexual behavior among the monks (all of which, like heterosexual behavior, was prohibited).

Vatsayana, writing the _Kamasutra_ in the fifth century of our era, included a whole chapter on the practice of fellatio as performed by eunuchs. Other erotic manuals suggested that sodomy was common in Kalinga (southern Orissa state) and Panchala (in the Panjab). In general, sex for pleasure was explicitly validated (at least for males, and often, as with Vatsayana, for females as well) and not necessarily linked to procreative function.

_The Medieval Period._ Indian medieval history (twelfth-eighteenth centuries) saw the North Indian cultural heartland dominated by Islamic conquerors, who did not succeed in converting most of the Hindu masses but did leave an indelible imprint on Indian life. Enough of their subjects became Muslims for large areas of India to become primarily Islamic in character (becoming the nations of Pakistan and Bangladesh in 1947 and 1971).

The Muslims brought with them the institution of pederasty, and forced the withdrawal of women from public life. The free and open Indian attitude toward (heterosexual) sex which had characterized the ancient period now gave way to Islamic semiprudence.

At the same time, the Hindu (and later the Buddhist) religion saw the rise of Tantrism, with its hospitality toward sex as a means of liberation and its explicit endorsement of cross-gender role-playing.

_The Colonial Period._ The British, who came first as traders and stayed to conquer the subcontinent (eighteenth and nineteenth centuries), were scandalized by the sexual customs of the Indians, but in keeping with their policy of minimizing interference in the local mores, they did little about them. The educational system they established, however, eventually created a new Indian elite which enthusiastically absorbed British ideas, including the more prurient attitudes of the Victorians toward sex. This elite, in turn, imposed their new antisexuality on the Indian middle class.

A jaundiced description of Indian Islam sexuality was written by the Dutch Admiral John Splinter Stavorinus in the 1770s. Referring to the Islamic Bengalis, Stavorinus opined that “The sin of Sodom is not only in universal practice among them, but extends to a bestial communication with brutes, and in particular with sheep. Women even abandon themselves to the commission of unnatural crimes.”

“I do not believe that there is any country upon the face of the globe,” the Dutchman continued, “where lascivious intemperance, and every kind of unbridled lewdness, is so much indulged in, as in the lower provinces of the empire of Indostan. [This] extends likewise to the Europeans, who settle, or trade there.”

oldest extant law codes, therefore, are not decrees by kings but sacred texts written by Brahmín-class priests. Often conflicting with each other, they were held in widely varying degrees of reverence by different communities and social groups; in many kingdoms they were not followed at all.

The earliest surviving text on Indian law is the Arthaśāstra, a manual on statecraft by Kauṭilya, a minister of the Mauryan Empire of the fourth century B.C. Kauṭilya set out fines of 48 to 94 panas for male homosexual activity and 12 to 24 panas for lesbian acts. These fines were much lower than those for many heterosexual offenses.

The Code of Manu, which dates from the first to third centuries of our era and is the best known of the sacred law texts, prescribes that an upper-class man “who commits an unnatural offense with a male . . . shall bathe, dressed in his clothes.” The same purification ritual is prescribed for one who has intercourse with a female in the daytime. An expiation ritual is prescribed for a man who swallows semen. The members of the lowest of the four great classes, as well as outcastes, were not restricted at all, as they were not expected to uphold high standards of ritual purity.

Manu laid down more severe restrictions on women, prescribing a fine of 200 panas plus double her nuptial fee as well as ten lashes with a rod for a girl “who pollutes another girl”; if a woman pollutes a girl she is to undergo the humiliation of having her head shaved or two fingers cut off and be made to ride through the village on a donkey.

Some later sacred-legal writers held that oral sex was equivalent to the killing of a Brahmín, the worst imaginable crime as far as the Brahmíns (who wrote the texts) were concerned, and could not be expurgated in less than one hundred life-cycles.

When Britain took control of India, British sexual law was imported by the colonial administration. The 1861 legislation which changed the British penalty for sodomy from hanging to life imprisonment became Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code after independence. This law prohibits “carnal intercourse against the order of nature” and continues to prescribe imprisonment up to life as well as whippings and fines. Any sexual act involving penetration of the anus or mouth by a penis, whether homosexual or heterosexual, makes both partners criminal, according to Indian courts. In addition, intercrural (between the thighs) sex has been held by Indian courts to be banned by this law. Lesbian activities, and heterosexual cunnilingus, however, are legal.

Indian legal tradition justifies this law with the argument that “the natural object of carnal intercourse is that there should be possibility of conception of human beings, which in the case of unnatural offence is impossible.” Indian legal scholars, however, trace it to English beliefs that “all emission other than in vas legítimum was considered unchristian because such emission was supposed ultimately to cause conception of demons.”

Under a 1925 court decision still cited in legal texts, fellatio (called “the sin of Gomorrah”) is “less pernicious than the vice of Sodom . . . . It has not been surrounded by the halo of art, eloquence and poetry. It is not common and can never be so. It cannot produce the physical changes which the other vice produces.”

Evidentiary standards are rigorous, however, in that penetration “must be strictly proved” and corroborating testimony is normally required. According to Devi, prosecutions are “very rare.” All the Indian cases cited in the legal manuals involve boys.

Following the British law reform of 1967, attempts were made in the Indian courts to challenge Section 377. In 1983, the Supreme Court (in Fazal Rab Chaudhary v. State) declared that “Neither the notions of permissive society nor the fact that in some countries homosexu-
ality has ceased to be an offense has influ-
enced our thinking.” Having said that, the
court, dealing with a case involving sex
between a man and a “young boy” but
without force, upheld the law but reduced
the sentence to six months.

Lesbianism. Female homosexuality is not discussed in modern Indian
law, reflecting its invisibility in society at
large. The harems of the rulers of various
Indian states are said to have been “hot-
beds of lesbianism.” In the realm of leg-
end, however, we find mention of striaiyā
or female-ruled ancient kingdoms in which
“women were said to have group congress
with their own sex, and more rarely with
men.” No historical evidence has survived
for such kingdoms.

Hindu Traditions. As with most
everything else in that amorphous collection
of religious traditions loosely called
“Hinduism,” there is a wide variety of
attitudes displayed toward gender identity
and homosexuality. In keeping with gen-
eral Hindu attitudes, however, there is
little attempt to impose religious views on
sexuality on those who do not share them.

Apart from the previously men-
tioned writings of the Brahmin legalists,
there are not many references to homo-
sexuality in the enormous corpus of main-
stream Hindu scriptures and sacred texts.
The yogic tradition, however, has main-
tained a morbid concern that any emission
of semen is debilitating and has thus taken
a relentlessly hostile stance toward any
male sexuality.

Throughout Indian history, the
only acceptable escape from marital du-
ties has been “renunciation” (sannyas),
leaving family and caste behind to take up
the unattached religious life as a monk,
guru, teacher, or wandering holy man. It is
not difficult to imagine that many Indians
who had no heterosexual inclinations must
have followed that route, which had the
further advantage of placing them in the
company of other members of their own
gender.

Shiva, the most popular of all
Hindu gods, has from the most ancient of
times been worshipped primarily in the
form of a lingam or erect phallus; in the
most common ritual milk is poured over
the tip of the lingam and flows down on all
sides. The lingam is worshipped by males
as well as by females, suggesting the exis-
tence of a sublimated homoerotic element.

Perhaps the only record of some-
thing approaching homoeroticism in Hindu
mythology is part of the myth of Shiva,
who engaged in intercourse with his wife
Parvati for a thousand years without ejacu-
lating. Interrupted by a delegation of other
deities, he withdrew from Parvati and then
ejaculated. The semen was swallowed by
Agni, a male god connected with fire and
ritual sacrifices, but it proved too hot for
him to handle and he vomited it up; eventu-
ally the sperm turned into Shiva’s son
Skanda (“The Ejected”), without any con-
tribution from Parvati. Skanda became the
god of youth, beauty, and warriors.

Indian mythology shows many
examples of sex changes, which Thadani
considers to be covers for male homosexu-
ality. Vishnu, Shiva’s main rival for the
devotion of Hindus, turned himself into
the stunningly beautiful Mohini in order
to distract the demons at a critical mo-
moment. Shiva was so taken with Mohini
that he copulated with her and impreg-
nated her so that she bore him a son. In
some versions of the myth the son is
Harihara, but in South India, where the act
is described as a rape, the son is Ayappa,
focus of a rapidly growing cult.

Androgyny has long been consid-
ered a divine attribute, and many of the
leading deities have been pictured as her-
maphroditic, half male, half female, re-
lecting the Hindu belief that godhead
contains within itself all the elements of
the cosmos, including both male and
female. The most notable example of this,
however, is Shiva, who is often shown
with the left side female, the right male,
and in this form is called “Ardha-
narishvara.”
Devotees of androgynous deities have occasionally sought to further their approach to God by emulating this divine quality, giving a sacred aura to androgyny. Thus the famous nineteenth-century Hindu reformer Ramakrishna went about for some time wearing women’s clothes.

The Sakibhava cult, which worships Krishna (an incarnation of Vishnu), holds that only Krishna is truly male and that all other creatures are female in relation to him. Male followers of the cult dressed like women and even imitated menstrual periods. Vern Bullough, citing R. B. Bhandarkar in his Sexual Variance in Society and History (New York: John Wiley, 1976), says they “all were supposed to permit the sexual act on their persons (playing the part of women) as an act of devotion. Usually, the male members did not show themselves much in public, in part because of public hostility.” Benjamin Walker confirms this account in his encyclopedic The Hindu World. For comparison, see the Hijra sect below.

Separate from such small sects is a wide religious movement which swept through India, affecting both Hinduism and Buddhism, in the late ancient and early medieval period, though it has become unrespectable since British Victorian prudery became dominant. This “left-handed” esoteric Tantrism utilizes ritual sexuality as a sacred technique. Though mostly heterosexual, numerous Tantric texts do advocate the desirability of a male follower developing his opposite (female) traits and visualizing himself as female; sometimes this has taken the form of participating in homosexual acts.

Walker, in his discussion of sexual “perversions” in Hinduism, considers these to be “aspects of antinomianism thought to be favored by the gods, and regarded as methods of achieving degrees of ‘intensity,’ which… release a stream of vital power which if rendered to the service of the deity is returned multifold to the giver.”

Anal intercourse, called adhorata or “under-love,” involves the anus as one of the most significant chakras, or energy-centers, in the body, and thus has been held to energize the artistic, poetic, and mystical faculties. “Some medieval writers speak of it as quite common and do not regard it as perverse,” according to Walker.

Maukhya, or fellatio, has also been given sacred significance in connection with the Shiva-Agni legend cited above. “Certain Hindu writers on erotics have held that ‘the mouth is pure for purposes of congress,’” Walker writes.

The Hindu–Buddhist doctrine of reincarnation has been used to explain the phenomenon of homosexual orientation by depicting it as a transitional state following a change of gender from one lifetime to the next, on the theory that long-acquired ingrained habits [such as sexual interest in men] are slower to change than the physical body, which is replaced at death/birth. Noteworthy about this rationale is the absence of negative overtones.

Homosexuality in Contemporary India. Indian male friends are very affectionate with each other and do not hesitate to demonstrate this in public (something they would never do with their wives). Men and boys can easily be seen sleeping on the pavement in each other’s arms. This has given many Western visitors the mistaken idea that homosexuality is rampant.

The legal scholar Ejaz Ahmad noted in 1975 that “there seems to be a widespread tendency of [Indian] males to experiment in homosexual activities, although most do not become pure homosexuals.” Ahmad’s observation, which may reflect his Islamic background, has found little support from other Indian writers, though that may have more to do with taboos on discussion—as Devi puts it, “Even today, people in India find it difficult to conceive of the very idea of homosexuality”—than with the accuracy of his remark.
Devi paints a picture of Indian (Hindu) homosexuals leading very cautious, hidden lives, meeting primarily through private cliques while fulfilling their expected marital duties. A lack of privacy which is pervasive in this extremely overcrowded country seems to be the major handicap, along with an absence of clubs, bars, and similar meeting places. Devi states that "boy brothels are very common in the bigger cities" employing boys as young as eight.

Other reports indicate that big-city bus terminal toilets seem to be the major sites for anonymous non-reciprocal sex, while some urban parks serve as meeting places. No gay-oriented organizations are known to be functioning in India.

Among the hundred million Muslims still remaining in India after partition, it may be speculated, ancient practices such as pederasty which were more congenial to Islamic culture may continue to survive, but there are few or no data.

While there is almost no modern Indian literature on homosexuality, according to Devi two Hindi films have touched on the topic: Dosti and Raj Kapoor's Sangam.

The Hijras. No discussion of contemporary homosexuality in India can ignore a religious sect, the Hijras, whose numbers have been estimated between fifty and five hundred thousand. This all-male group, divided into those who surgically remove the penis and those who remain intact, worships the Mother Goddess and seeks to identify with her by becoming as feminine as possible.

While their traditional role in North Indian society is as entertainers, and they theoretically uphold an ideal of chastity, many Hijras function as prostitutes, taking the passive role for Indian male insertors who look upon the transvestite Hijras as substitutes for females and do not consider themselves homosexual or unmasculine. In this their customers reflect an inarticulated belief that "sexual object choice alone does not define gender." Serena Nanda, in her study of the Hijras, points out that this sect welcomes many teenage homosexuals who are cast out of their own families and have no other niche in a communal-oriented culture.

The level of tolerance experienced by the Hijras appears to vary considerably, so that one must question blanket assertions that their behavior is condoned by Indian society. Nevertheless, they seem to provide the only open social status for homosexuals, transvestites, and transsexuals in a culture which otherwise provides it only through marriage and the family, and which can hardly conceive of an individual not attached to a communal group as well as a family.

Conclusion. The forces of modernization, while slow by Western standards, are accompanied by social changes in India which seem rapid to this very old, tradition-bound culture. Some young people are rebelling against the institution of the family-arranged marriage with its dowries, and educated professional women are beginning to make dents in the rigid social roles prescribed for females. One of the consequences of these changes are that the taboo on discussion of sex is slowly beginning to weaken, along with the devotion of the Indian educated elite to the values of Victorian Britain. Eventually, this candor is bound to open up the subject of homosexuality as well.

Urbanization is starting to loosen the grip of family and caste and beginning to provide the anonymity which seems necessary for homosexuals to develop independent lives. Whether Western notions of homosexuality take root in India (apart from the small English-educated professional class) remains to be seen—Indian mores have already proven their capacity for astonishing resistance to foreign influence. Perhaps a model of pre- and extra-marital experimentalism by "normal" males keeping to insertor roles with a small number of effeminate passives.
American Indian religions emphasized the freedom of individuals to follow their own inclinations, as evidence of guidance from their personal spirit guardian, and to share generously what they had with others.

Children’s sexual play was more likely to be regarded by adults as an amusing activity rather than as a cause for alarm. This casual attitude of child-rearing continued to influence people as they grew up, and even after their marriage. Yet, while sex was certainly much more accepted than in the Judeo-Christian tradition, it was not the major emphasis of Indian society. The focus was instead on two forms of social relations: family [making ties to other genders] and friendship [making ties within the same gender]. Since extremely close friendships were emphasized between two “blood brothers” or two women friends, this allowed a context in which private homosexual behavior could occur without attracting attention. Simply because this role of sex in promoting bonds of friendship was so accepted, there is relatively little information about this kind of casual same-sex activity. It demonstrates that the role of sex in promoting close interpersonal ties is just as important for a society as the role of sex as a means of reproduction. While Christian ideology emphasizes that the purpose of sex is only for reproduction, that is clearly not the view of many other religions.

Institutional Forms. Beyond its role in same-sex friendships, homosexual behavior among many aboriginal tribes was also recognized in the form of same-sex marriages. However, the usual pattern among North American Indians (as well as in many areas of the Caribbean, Central and South America) focused not on two masculine men getting married, or two feminine women, but to have a typical man or woman marry an androgynous person who takes on a different gender role. Traditionally in many tribes, the feminine male had a special role as a berdache and the masculine female took on
an Amazon role.

These androgynous roles were different and distinct from the regular roles of men and women. Some scholars suggest that this pattern is "gender mixing," while others see such roles as forming their own unique "alternative genders," but almost all specialists currently doing research reject the older notion that berdaches and Amazons were hermaphrodites, transsexuals, transvestites, or "gender-crossers," for the simple reason that Indian cultures allowed more than two gender options. Though the early sources are incomplete and unclear, probably most cultures that recognized such alternative genders assumed that such a person would have sex with a person of the same biological sex. While there are isolated examples of heterosexual marriage, the usual assumption is that a feminine male berdache would marry a man, while a masculine female Amazon would marry a woman. The complementary advantages of persons filling different genders, meant that two hunters would not get married, nor would two plant-gathering/farming women. In aboriginal economies, a husband–wife team needed to do different labor roles to provide the household with a balanced subsistence.

Accordingly, the husband of a berdache was not defined as a berdache, merely because he had sex with a male. The community defined him on the basis of his gender role as a "man," being a hunter and/or warrior, rather than on his sexual behavior. Likewise, the wife of an Amazon was not defined as a lesbian, but continued to be defined as a woman because she continued to do women's labor roles of plant-gathering, farming, cooking, and craftwork. This gender-defined role did not categorize people as "heterosexual" versus "homosexual," but left a certain fluidity for individuals to follow their sexual tastes as they were attracted to specific individuals of whichever sex. In tribes that accepted marriage for the berdache or the Amazon, the clan membership of one's intended spouse was much more important than their sex.

This fluidity also meant that a person who had married a berdache or an Amazon was not stigmatized as different, and could later easily marry heterosexually. In fact, many tribes that accepted same-sex marriages did considerable kidding to the husband of the berdache, and the wife of the Amazon, which likely had the function of helping to break up these marriages after a time, so that the person would be heterosexually married at some point in his or her life. With the exception of the berdaches and Amazons, who were relatively few in number in a tribe, social pressure emphasized for most people that they should beget children. After they had done so, to help insure the continued population of the society, the sex of the lover did not matter much. Indeed, even the berdaches and Amazons contributed toward population growth through their important role as adoptive parents for orphaned children.

In many tribes' conceptions of spirituality, the person who was different was seen as having been created that way by the spirit world. Berdaches and Amazons were respected, even though they were recognized as different from the average tribal member. They were considered to be exceptional rather than abnormal.

The Encounter with Europeans. This view changed drastically, however, after the arrival of the Europeans. Bringing with them their homophobic Christian religion, Spanish conquerors in Florida, California, and the Southwest, as well as in Latin America, emphasized the Indians' acceptance of "sodomy" as a major justification for European conquest and plunder of the New World. Likewise, the English settlers brought a similar condemnation, and the United States and Canadian governments followed a policy of suppressing Indian peoples' sexuality as well as their native religions. The berdache and Amazon traditions went underground, and sex became a secret matter as it was perse-
cuted by reservation officials and Chris-
tian missionaries.

In the twentieth century, while
European condemnation of homose-xual-
ity has had an influence on many modern
Indians, those who have retained their
traditions continue to respect berdaches
and Amazons even today. This attitude
had a significant impact on the white
founders of the homophile and gay libera-
tion movements in the United States and
Canada. With a recent renaissance in In-
dian culture, younger gay and lesbian
Indians have in turn been influenced by
the gay community to stand up openly
and take pride in their accepting Indian
traditions. Like traditionalist Indians, they feel
an appreciation for the strength and the
magic of human diversity, and they accept
people as they are rather than expect ev-
everyone to conform. This respect for the
different gifts that gay people can provide
as a benefit for society, and a respect for
women and for androgynous men, is hav-
ing an impact on Western culture as a
whole.

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Walter L. Williams

INDO-EUROPEAN PEDERASTY

Indo-European is the name given
to a family of languages extending from
Old Irish and Old Norse on the northwestern
periphery of Europe to Old Persian and
Sanskrit in the Middle East, together with
the modern descendants of these tongues.
The discovery by western European schol-
ars that this set of languages was interre-
lated in the same way as the members of
the Semitic family led to the hypothesis of
a primordial anthropological [ethnic] unity
of the speakers of the proto-language, of-
ten designated as Aryans in opposition to
the Semites and Hamites of the Near East.
Further study of the original common
vocabulary of Indo-European pointed to a
cultural and institutional legacy of the
preliterate past which some investigators
sought to reconstruct in meticulous
[though often speculative] detail.

Sergent’s Thesis. Recently Ber-
nard Sergent has claimed that Indo-Euro-
pean warriors practiced initiatory pederasty
until after their dispersion in the second
millennium b.c. Before a youth proved his
manhood by a feat of valor, he was fem-
inized and reduced to the passive sexual
role. Sergent thus went beyond the nine-
teenth-century German scholars who
ascribed pederasty to the Dorian tribes-
men invading Greece ca. 1200 B.C., after
the Achaeans and other Greeks who had
no such institution had arrived there from
their Urheimat [primitive homeland] on
the Eurasian steppes (or wherever else a
particular hypothesis located it).

Nothing, however, proves that
pederasty was institutionalized among the
kshatriyas [warrior caste] of India, the
ancient Persians, or the grave patres of
early Rome. Just as the theory of “Dorian
invasions” and of their transformation of
the material culture of Greece by intro-
ducing iron and other innovations has been
discredited by twentieth-century archae-
ology and linguistics, the whole concept of
the dispersion of an Indo-European speech
community by nomadic conquerors dur-
ing the second millennium b.c. has also
been called into question. Colin Renfrew
argues that the Indo-Europeans dispersed
as early as 6000 B.C. as peaceful farmers.
The institutionalization of pederasty in
Greece belongs to historic time, not to
prehistory.

The Greeks. Although Erich Be-
the argued in a celebrated 1907 article that
the Greeks believed that they transferred
their manliness to their boys through their
semen, many would still like to claim that
the original “Dorian” pederasty was
“pure,” i.e., devoid of overt sexuality. Like
most of the ancients, Cicero viewed Spartan mores with a grain of salt, even though they claimed not to soil even the thighs of their boys: "The Lacedemonians, while they permit all things except outrage in the love of youths, certainly distinguish the forbidden by a thin wall of parution from the sanctioned, for they allow embraces and a common couch to lovers" (De Republica, IV 4). Vase painting, graffiti, and literary allusions leave no doubt that intercrural and even anal intercourse were frequent and expected. Black-figured vases portray sexual contact more explicitly, with youths having larger virile members and more mature bodies, than the red-figured ones that replaced them after ca. 520 B.C. Even if Zaleucus, the earliest colonial lawgiver who copied much from Crete, may have introduced pederasty to Locri in 664 B.C., the pederasty of Phalanthus, Spartan colonizer of Tarentum in 706 B.C., was just another founder's myth. The attempts of Sergent's mentor Georges Dumézil to name the god or hero who established pederasty in every polis shows that its origin had to be justified in each, as Bethe realized long ago when he claimed that the practice spread to the other city-states from Sparta. The institutionalization of pederasty followed rather than preceded the rise of the city-states during the eighth century B.C. One should not conclude with Sergent that Greek paiderasteia was "not started by the influence of the Dorians or of any others." It began in Crete in the seventh century B.C. and was popularized by Sparta's military and athletic prowess before spreading to most of the rest of Hellas during the sixth century B.C.

Other Peoples. Inadequate also is the documentation that any other Indo-European peoples ever practiced initiatory pederasty. It has been claimed that Tacitus depicted the Germans as drowning "passive homosexuals" in bogs; recent scholarship has demonstrated that Tacitus' expression meant "cowards and shirkers in combat." Two other historians, however, Ammianus Marcellinus, writing ca. A.D. 380 and, more ambiguously, Procopius, writing ca. 550, expressed disgust that Germanic tribes, Taifaes and Heruls, practiced pederasty. In the early Middle Ages Germanic law also failed to mention homosexual acts, except under Christian influence in Visigothic Spain. While Sergent omitted evidence from the Irish penitentials for Celtic pederasty, he implausibly rationalized Caesar's silence in the Gallic Wars by claiming that the Roman general feared criticism of his own proclivities.

A recent effort at demolishing the Indo-European theory is Martin Bernal's thesis in Black Athena (New Brunswick, 1987) that the Greeks did not bring with them from the Eurasian heartland the genius, the ideas, and the institutions from which Western civilization evolved, but borrowed them from the Hamitic and Semitic peoples of the eastern Mediterranean. It was only the racism and anti-Semitism of nineteenth-century Germany that invented the "Aryan model" of Hellenic greatness. It is true that Greek civilization began in the south and east—the interface with the far older cultures of Egypt, Syria, and Mesopotamia—and that in the sphere of material culture the Greeks and Romans and even their successor nations did not innovate; they merely adopted the heritage of the Near Eastern peoples. But in politics, in science, and in philosophy the Hellenes were supremely original: the Near East simply had no counterpart to their democratic city-states or to their achievements in speculative thought. Moreover, it may be argued that the pederastic spirit guarded the cradle of Western civilization, shielding it well from the despotism and servility of the Persians and their client-peoples—with religions that rejected and condemned homosexual expression as an abomination in the sight of their deities. Though suggestive, the notion of a common Indo-European tradi-
tion of initiatory pederasty long antedating the rise of Hellenic civilization remains essentially hypothetical.


William A. Percy

INDONESIA

This island nation shares with its Southeast Asian neighbors a heritage of acceptance of homosexual behavior in its traditional cultures. Though little is known about the same-sex practices of many of the tribes of the East Indies, there is information from early explorers about several cultures. Among both the Dayak [Iban] of Kalimantan, and the Bugis [Makasar] of Sulawesi, there was a socially-recognized "half-man/half-woman" androgynous role for males similar to the bendi tradition among American Indians. Such individuals were often sacred religious leaders of great spiritual power, wore a mixture of men's and women's clothes, combined masculine and feminine aspects in their character, and had sex with men. Among the Bugis, such bisu individuals traditionally resided at the courts of local rulers, where they took care of the sacred royal ornaments.

Melanesian Cultures. In contrast, the eastern part of Indonesia is Irian Jaya, which is a totally different culture area from the rest of the nation. Irian is the western part of the island of Papua New Guinea, where the tribes share the Pacific Melanesian way of life. Melanesian cultures emphasize super-masculinity for males, who are grouped together in warriorhoods. In these societies, feminized males are looked down upon, and boys are pressured to adopt the masculine warrior lifestyle. One means of gaining masculinity, in the lifestyle of many of these Melanesian cultures, is for a boy to absorb masculine characteristics through sex with a man. Accordingly, every boy is expected to go through a stage of growth, in which he either orally ingests or anally receives semen. It is believed that he cannot mature into manhood without gaining this sperm through homosexual acts, even though he will marry heterosexually after he matures. Homosexual relations, often done in a ritual context, provide a major means for transmission of masculine values from one generation of males to another.

Javanese Culture. The major culture of Indonesia is Javanese, and only in the Ponorogo area of eastern Java is homosexuality institutionalized in man–boy relationships. Here, however, boys are valued for their feminine characteristics, and men will take a boy as a gemblakan. Traditionally, gemblakans were kept by a warok, a spiritually and physically powerful masculine adult man. Waroks would gain social status by the lavish wealth they could display on their beautiful gemblakan. A man would arrange with the boy's parents to keep him for one or two years, and would present the parents with gifts and financial support during the time in which he kept the boy. Some gemblakans were as young as seven years old, but most were in their teens, and some were loved so much by their man that they stayed together until the boy was in his twenties.

In recent decades, however, it has become too expensive for most men to support a gemblakan, so in the traditional villages of Ponorogo where the practice still continues, several men will combine their resources to share a boy. The group of men is usually either young and unmarried or a royal dance troupe, where the boy
performs in androgynous dress and heavy makeup. The boy spends a few days in the house of each group member, before being shared with another member. Married men will sleep with the boy rather than with their wife while the gemblakan is visiting, but the wife usually does not mind because of the social prestige that the gemblakan brings. Often, after the boy matures, he continues to regard the man's family as extended kin, and he will sometimes even marry the daughter of the man he had formerly slept with.

Islam. Indonesia today is mostly Islamic in religion, and the attitudes of Islam toward homosexuality are ambivalent. Among fundamentalist santri followers of Islam, sex of any kind outside heterosexual marriage is discouraged, but it is an open secret that adolescents in Muslim boarding schools are often involved in homosexual relationships. Usually Islam has adapted itself to local customs, and in areas like Ponorogo where homosexual behavior was common, the religion did not oppose this practice. However, in recent decades as Islam has reacted against the European stereotype that all Muslim men are pederasts, and as a more fundamentalist wave has swept through the Middle East, Islam in Indonesia has taken a more negative view of homosexuality. Fundamentalist Muslims today do not seem as intent on inducing guilt over homosexuality as fundamentalist Christians are, but they come close.

Modern Homosexual Life. Nevertheless, among those Indonesians who are not so strict on religion, popular acceptance of homosexuality continues. One popular form of entertainment in eastern Java is ludruk, a form of theatre in which female roles are traditionally played by transvestite males. The actors in these traveling troupes are often homosexual, and serve as sexual partners for married men who come and visit them after the ludruk performances.

With traditions like this, it is not surprising that transvestite homosexual-
seem to have an accepted place in society generally.

It is ironic that the position of gay people in the democratic nations is often more repressed than it is in an authoritarian regime like Indonesia. Indonesian values such as social harmony, non-violence, responding to the voice of the people, and unity in diversity seem to protect gays more effectively than traditions of majority rule and individual rights. Still, as Indonesians are becoming more westernized, some “progressive” elements are bringing western homophobic attitudes into society.


*Walter L. Williams*

**INFAMY**

This term, which now connotes an evil reputation in a general sense, formerly had a range of sexual connotations. Under the term *infâmes*, with the abstract noun *infamie*, eighteenth-century French designated all those “addicted to unnatural pleasures,” thus not exclusively homosexuals, but those who engaged in any category of nonprocreative sex. But for a short period—the second quarter of the century—*infâmes* and *infamie* applied almost entirely to male homosexuality.

The notion of infamy derived from Roman law where it served to designate a person as civilly unworthy or disgraced as a result of a judgment against him (*infamia juris*, infamy of law), or even without such a judgment (*infamia facti*, infamy of fact). The first was a matter of law, the second of public opinion. Feudal and canon law from the fourth century onward extended the concept of infamy to heretics, whom this stigma excluded from communion with believing Christians. William Eden, an English criminal jurist of the *Enlightenment*, explained the penal effect of civic degradation in his *Principles of Penal Law* (1771) by saying that “virtue, though of a social nature, will not associate with infamy.” Although the concept of infamy was never received into the common law tradition, Jeremy Bentham in his work on the subject enumerated some thirty-three English synonyms for the expression.

For an individual to suffer the penalty of infamy, his misconduct had to be publicly known; the canon lawyers even upheld the principle *Ecclesia de occulis non judicat*, “The church renders no judgment on hidden matters.” On the other hand, infamy of law could be established by a tribunal in accordance with received rules of evidence, while infamy of fact depended upon one’s loss of reputation. It was the latter rather than the former that plagued homosexuals over the centuries, as actual prosecutions and convictions for sodomy were rare, even under the Old Regime, and were more often than not show trials intended to impress the multitude with the gravity of the offense and potential wrongdoers with the dreadful penalties to which they might expose themselves. Sodomy between laymen was punishable with excommunication, and when convicted by a tribunal, the culprits, if clerics, were permanently deprived of benefit of clergy, and then both classes were relaxed to the secular authorities, who would carry out the sentence by burning them at the stake, from the mid-sixteenth century onward in accordance with two constitutions of pope Pius V, *Cum primum* (April 1, 1566) and *Horrendum* (August 30, 1568). Conviction for the crime entailed *infamia juris*, notoriety *infamia facti*. Further, the overlap of sodomy with heresy and to a lesser extent with witch-
craft in the medieval mind and in the texts of canon law darkened the penumbra of infamy that enveloped sins “against the order of nature.”

French usage of the eighteenth century employed such expressions as goût infâme, vice infâme, commerce infâme, moeurs infâmes to designate homosexual relations; Voltaire in the Dictionnaire philosophique (1764) could even speak of the amour infâme. The records of the Paris police even use these expressions as technical terms for sodomy and those addicted to it when recording the activities of the vice squad in its surveillance of the homosexual underworld of the capital. Occasional lingering examples of the word in this meaning are found as late as the nineteenth century, in Pierre Proudhon and, somewhat ironically, in the “decadent” bisexual poet Paul Verlaine.

Cesare Beccaria, in his treatise Dei delitti e delle pene (1764), attacked the concept of infamy in the Roman law of late feudal and early modern Europe, and the favorable reception of his work in the early Republic accounted for the reference to “a capital, or otherwise infamous crime” in the Fifth Amendment to the American Constitution. However, although Beccaria’s principles were enacted into law in the Bill of Rights in 1791, the criminal penalties for sodomy, and the infamy of fact attaching to the homosexual in public opinion, remained in the United States and generally in the Protestant countries of northern Europe, whose religious tradition had discarded the notion of infamy of law. Down to the second half of the twentieth century the overt, known homosexual continued to be a criminal and an outcast in the eyes of his fellow Americans.

Thus the Old Regime survived among a people who believed that its forefathers had left such intolerant practices behind when they set foot in the new land. The gay rights movement of today carries on the struggle against this survival of medieval infamy by combatting the defa-
mation which the church had practiced for centuries—and in many instances continues to practice in the face of the modern understanding of homosexual behavior and of twentieth-century norms of personal freedom and self-determination.


Warren Johansson

INGLE

This word is now obsolete in English, but in the late Elizabethan era and afterward it designated a catamite or kept boy. The earliest quotation is from Thomas Nashe, Strange News (1592): “I am afraid thou wilt make me thy ingle.” J. Z. Eglinton has suggested that the word may derive from Medieval Latin angeclus through one of the Celtic languages, Irish or Scots Gaelic, which has the word ain-gegal meaning “angel.” The depiction of the angels in Christian art as beautiful, epicate creatures of the sort desired by the boy lover would have motivated the semantic transition. Ben Jonson, in the play Epicene (ca. 1609), has one character voice envy for another’s luxury, including the option of “his mistress abroad and his ingle at home.” The term was also used as a verb, attested by John Florio in A World of Words (1598), an Italian-English dictionary with the entry: Cinedulare, to bugger...to ingle; while ingler designated the active partner: pedicone, a bugster, an ingleer of boys.

The word should not be confused with the homophone ingle, “fire,” which is derived from the Scots Gaelic aingeal (a homophone of the first aingeal) in the same sense, but of unknown origin; it is probably cognate with Old Prussian an-
Injustice Collecting

The Vienna, then New York, psychoanalyst Edmund Bergler (1899–1962) developed the theory that the basic neurosis is psychic masochism, and that homosexuals are neurotic "injustice collectors." In Bergler's view the provocative behavior observed in his patients arises in the following manner. They create a situation in which some substitute for the mother of early childhood is perceived as "refusing." Not realizing that they are themselves to blame, they become aggressive in righteous indignation and self-defense alternating with self-pity, while "unconsciously enjoying psychic masochism." Under the facade of pseudo-aggression are hidden deep self-damaging tendencies. The psychic masochist in the homosexual "habitually transforms conscious displeasure into unconscious pleasure," so that he can resign himself to the punishments resulting from the humiliation and insult heaped on him by an intolerant society. Instead of learning to avoid punishment, the homosexual actually enjoys it, and by turning displeasure into pleasure he "takes the sting out of the pain and defeat of his tormented existence." Such were Bergler's idiosyncratic views.

While it is true that a homosexual with self-damaging tendencies (and such people do exist) is likely to encounter reprisals from a society permeated with Judeo-Christian homophobia, only a shrinking minority of homosexuals are of this type. Moreover, early writers denying the pathological character of homosexual-
responsible for most of the burnings at the stake which posterity associates with the Inquisition.

Episcopal Inquisitions. In the early centuries, Christians usually punished heresy by excommunication, exclusion from the community of the faithful. Patristic writers generally disapproved of physical sanctions, though after Christianity became the official religion of the Roman empire, rulers often chose to regard heresy as a kind of lèse-majesté, an offense to the imperial dignity worthy of loss of property or even death. The collapse of the Roman Empire in the west, in 476, made a uniform imposition of such severity impractical. On the whole, the early medieval church itself kept to a relatively restrained attitude, which lingered in the twelfth century in the precept "Faith is to be secured by persuasion, not by force" of St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

Shortly after the year 1000, however, the western church was threatened by the inception of a new wave of heresy. In due course the new dissidents, who threatened not only the principles of faith but also the prerogatives of the church as an institution, rallied behind the dualism of the Cathars (or Albigensians), which in parts of Europe, notably in southern France, took on the character of a full-fledged counter-church. St. Dominic and his preaching friars tried in vain to win back the heretics to the church. Although the Cathars claimed that their elect members must be strictly celibate, the Catholics regularly accused them of sexual licence, as they had certain heretics before the fall of Rome. That such licence did occur and could be homosexual is shown, among others, by the detailed record of an investigation of sodomy in Pamiers in the south of France. The Cathars were subjected to a bloody crusade called by Pope Innocent III in 1208 and lasting until 1229, which succeeded in driving them partly underground but not exterminating them.

The Papal Inquisition. The establishment of a papal mechanism to combat heresy was gradual. One key step occurred in 1232 when Emperor Frederick II, himself accused of heresy, charged state officials of the Holy Roman Empire with the task of ferreting out and burning heretics. Fearing Frederick's ambitions, but more to suppress the Albigensians, whom the Crusade had failed entirely to exterminate, Pope Gregory IX (1227-1241) claimed this office for the church, appointing papal inquisitors. These were chosen, not from the retinue of the bishops who had hitherto dealt with heresy and were now enjoined to cooperate, but from members of the newly-formed mendicant orders, especially the Dominicans and Franciscans.

Torture Introduced. At first the inquisitors mainly admonished the guilty to confess voluntarily and accept penance. The obdurate were, however, imprisoned under harsh conditions. Influenced by the revival of Roman law, in 1252 Innocent IV authorized the use of torture to break the resistance of the accused. Penalties were confiscation of property, imprisonment either temporary or perpetual, and surrender (relaxation) to the secular arm, which meant death by burning at the stake. The proportion who suffered the supreme penalty was relatively small; out of 613 cases he prosecuted, the famous inquisitor Bernard of Gui "relaxed" 45.

Detection of sodomy per se was not a goal of the papal inquisition, though this prohibited behavior was not infrequently uncovered in the course of investigations conducted on other grounds, and appropriately punished—though rarely with death. The modern notion that the vernacular expression faggot derives from a supposed common practice of using male homosexuals as kindling for the burning of witches is fantasy, but English bugger comes from Bulgarus, the generic designation for adherents of dualistic heresies such as the Bogomils of Bulgaria and the Cathars of Provence.

As late as 1179, the Third Lateran Council decreed only degradation and confinement within a monastery for sod-
omital clerics, the penalty prescribed by canon law, and excommunication for laymen. Secular laws, feudal and royal, were harsher: the thirteenth-century Castilian law ordering castration and stoning was in 1497 altered by Spanish King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, los reyes católicos ("their Catholic Majesties"), to burning with confiscation of property, no matter what the rank or order of the condemned. Sodomy was mixtī foris, subject to secular as well as regular ecclesiastical courts and after the decree of Pope Nicholas V in 1451 also to the papal Inquisition.

Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions. In 1478 Ferdinand and Isabella created the Spanish Inquisition under royal sponsorship with papal approval. In 1524–30 pope Clement VII authorized the Inquisitions of Aragon, Saragossa, Valen-
cia, and Barcelona to pursue sodomites. The Suprema in Madrid, the new capital after 1560, which allowed the accused to choose an "advocate" from members or familiars of the Inquisition as an illusory protection, sold exemptions at very high prices from its penalties such as prison, the galleys, or wearing the sanbenito (penitential costume). The grand inquisitor Tomás de Torquemada (1420–1498), of converso origin, even proceeded against bishops, who were usually exempt, and a successor did so against the archbishop of Granada, primate of Spain. After 1660 even the Jesuits, exempt from all ordinary authority, became subject to the Inquisition.

The Spanish Inquisition, though more avaricious, contributed less to royal centralization than had the one in France against the Albigensians. It was extended to the Italian provinces in the Spanish empire—Sicily, Sardinia, Naples, and Milan, as well as the Canaries, Mexico, Peru, and New Granada. The rumor that Philip II intended to introduce the Spanish Inquisition to the Netherlands in the 1560s contributed to the outbreak of the Dutch revolt against Spain, then the most powerful country in the world.

The Spanish Inquisition was all-pervasive: It was organized hierarchically—district inquisitors, comisarios, and familiares (local informers). In the province of Valencia in 1567 the number of familiares peaked at 1638 or an average of 1 per 42 inhabitants; they were particularly dense in the smallest hamlets so that social control was well-nigh complete. Spanish inquisitors applied tortures commonly used by contemporary ecclesiastical and secular tribunals: the pulley, water torture, and the rack.

In 1506 at Seville the Inquisition made a special investigation into sodomy, causing many arrests and many fugitives and burning 12 persons, but in 1509 the Suprema in Castile declared that crime not within the jurisdiction of the Inquisition. But after a fiery sermon preached by Fray Luis Castellioni attributing the pesti-

ence then raging in Valencia to God’s wrath against sodomites, the townspeople found four who confessed and were burnt at the stake by order of the court, while a fifth, given a more lenient sentence (vergüenza), was torn from the jailers, garroted and burnt by the mob. Alleging that the crime of sodomy had been introduced to Spain by the Moors, the Spanish Ambassador to Rome obtained from Pope Clement VII in 1524 a special commission for the Holy Office to curb its spread by investigating laymen and clergy in Aragon, Catalonia, and Valencia and proceeding according to local, municipal law in spite of the resistance by local bishops to this usurpation of their authority. In Castile, however, in 1534 and 1575, and in Peru in 1580 and again toward the end of Philip II’s reign, royal inquisitors were barred from deciding cases involving only sodomy, but they nevertheless often ordered arrests. Moreover, Castilian secular courts prosecuted sodomites even more vigorously than the Inquisition in Aragon: between the 1580s and the 1650s between 100 and 150 sodomites were executed in Madrid alone. In 1568 Philip II ordered
death for all sodomites in all his realms but Sicily successfully resisted. There the authorities inflicted surprisingly lesser penalties in a large number of cases: imprisonment or banishment for life or for a number of years or fines and degradation from office.

The papal Inquisition refused cognizance of sodomy and in 1638 Dr. Martí Real claimed that throughout Italy leniency inadequate to the enormity of the offense prevailed. In fact, in 1644 some Franciscans praised the practice.

In Portugal John III obstinately pursued jurisdiction for his Inquisition, which the reluctant papacy granted only in 1562 after his death and as in Aragon only provided that judges proceed according to municipal law. By 1640 the offense was tried like heresy and punished by scourging and the galleys or relaxation. As a result of complaints by the Cortes, the Concordat of 1646 recognized the principle of mixtæ fori so that whichever court proceeded first gained jurisdiction. In all the regions under the Spanish crowns, which included Portugal between 1580 and 1640, squabbles over jurisdiction, procedure, and penalties continued, but torture tended to be freely used even upon the testimony of but one accomplice.

Valencia. There were two peak periods of prosecution in Valencia: 1571–90 and 1621–30. The first sodomite was burned by the Inquisition in Valencia in 1572. The accused included 19.5 percent clergy, 5.6 percent nobles and other upper-class groups, 36.7 percent workers and artisans, 18.6 percent slaves and servants, 17.6 percent soldiers, sailors, and vagabonds, and 2.3 percent other groups. Poor boys leaving home to seek their fortunes beginning as early as 8 to 10 were the most frequent objects of desire, but as passives and minors they received much lighter if any sentences than their older and active seducers. Of those brought to trial, 29.1 percent were between 12 and 19 years old and 43.2 percent were under 25. Of the 347 cases of “crimes against nature” between 1566 and 1775, 259 involved homosexuality; minus bestiality the proportion rises from 74.6 percent to 99.2 percent. Prior to 1570 the records show between 10 and 20 cases; from 250 to 260 were found between 1570 and 1700, and only 50 or 60 cases in the eighteenth century. Thus from 320 to 350 cases occurred between 1566 and 1775, of which 50 to 60 resulted in burnings.

A growing reluctance to convict those who, unlike heretics, could not escape by confession and penance led after 1630 to greater leniency and more commutations. Torture decreased: in Valencia 21.4 percent of sodomites were tortured prior to 1630, but only 4.2 percent afterwards. Priests held that only incorrigibility should lead to relaxation, and sodomy was held to be a sin or vice, not a fixed characteristic. The subjects of inquisition then in theory could not be tortured until the church failed after repeated attempts to reform them, for torture should only be used when conviction could lead to death. In the trial of Fray Manuel Sánchez del Castellar y Arbustán in 1684 with two accomplices testifying to consummated acts and others—solicitation, lewd and lascivious acts, and a foul reputation—continual cross-examination, so rarely allowed in such tribunals, revealed inconsistencies, discrepancies, contradictions, jealousies, and enmities; this trial led only to exile and silencing of the distinguished clerk, who had already lingered three years in prison. By the early eighteenth century, greater mildness in regard to those found guilty of sodomy was on the rise.

Portugal. The records of the Portuguese Inquisition, which are complete for sodomy from 1567 to 1794, have been carefully studied by Luiz Mott, a leading Brazilian scholar. During this period 4,419 persons confessed to, or were accused of, sodomitical crimes, but of these fewer than ten percent were arrested and tried. Only thirty sodomites were actually burned by the Portuguese Inquisition, so that it seems milder than persecutions in other countries. Throughout western Europe,
however, the strategy of social control of homosexual behavior seems to have been much the same: since there could be no possibility of blanket surveillance, the authorities severely punished in public a few signal cases of sodomy to intimidate others. The accused included a disproportionate number of blacks and mulattoes, reflecting the popular belief that sodomy had been imported from overseas. As in Aragon, in Portugal the persecution of sodomites peaked in the period 1620–34, when as many cases were tried (94) as those recorded for the previous century. In the eighteenth century sodomy trials became uncommon, and the Portuguese Inquisition concentrated on persecuting heretics and libertines.

Overseas. Cardinal Jiménez had given bishops inquisitorial power in the Indies in 1516–17. Philip II established tribunals in Lima (1570) and Mexico City (1571). The first auto-da-fé (public burning) took place at Mexico City in 1547, the year of Cortes' death. The Inquisition in America was less active than in Spain, with only some 100 executions in the 250 years of its existence; only 30 were executed in Lima, for example. The Portuguese Inquisition made Goa its overseas capital and in 1571 Philip II had the pope create an “Inquisition of the galleys...of fleets and armies.” Protestants, even English and French ones, were burned.

Much work needs to be done in evaluating the records of the Iberian Inquisition. However, a glimpse of their treatment of sodomites is afforded by a scene in Seville in 1585. The authorities decided to make an example of a black man who had been accused of sodomy and procuring young boys. They painted his face, adorned him with a lace ruff and a big curled wig, and marched him through the streets to the stake.

How Many Victims? Estimates of the total number of victims of the Inquisition vary enormously, and modern critical scholarship has corrected some of the exaggerations of earlier Protestant and anti-clerical historians. Stanley Paine, in his *History of Spain and Portugal* (Madison, WI, 1973), concluded that in the first century of the Iberian Inquisition (1478–1578), 50,000 conversos were condemned, but that the Spanish Inquisition executed a total of some 3,000 (including a small number of Protestants) over a span of three hundred years (1478–1778). A few executions are recorded from the eighteenth century, and the last hanging occurred in 1826. By contrast, between 1562 and 1684, 4,200 individuals were executed for witchcraft in Southwest Germany alone.

Henry Kamen, in *Spain 1469–1714* (New York, 1965), states that about 5.4 percent of those arrested by the Inquisition were accused of Judaizing and 7 percent of Protestant sympathies. Most of the Protestants were foreigners. In all of Spain after 1562 fewer than half a dozen individuals were burned at the stake for Protestantism. In Aragon, Granada, Saragossa, and Valencia most of the accused were moriscos (Moors forcibly converted to a nominal Christianity). Executions amounted to no more than 10 percent a year of those arrested. In much of this period the total number of executions by order of the Inquisition came to only 2 or 3 a year in all of Spain and its American colonies. Kamen further notes that as many as one-third of those arrested in Toledo were accused of extra-marital sexuality—fornication, adultery and the like—over which secular tribunals also had jurisdiction.

The anti-clerical Napoleonic-era historian Juan Antonio Llorente concluded that 31,912 condemned persons were relaxed to the secular authorities and 17,659 were relaxed in effigy because they had already fled, while 291,450 persons were given penitential sentences, thus assigning the Spanish Inquisition a total of 341,021 victims in its three-and-a-half century history.

Conclusion. The principle of toleration proclaimed by the *Enlightenment* caused the Inquisition in Spain first to be
abolished in 1808 by Joseph Bonaparte and although restored by the reactionary Ferdinand VII in 1814, it was abolished by the liberals after they came to power in 1820, and definitively abolished by royal decree in 1834. Its crimes are still remembered as a high-water mark of the attempt to impose uniformity of belief by systematically persecuting and punishing all who were guilty of "error," and it has served as a sad precedent for totalitarian states of the twentieth century that have demanded the same sort of ideological unanimity from their subjects. The mass purges and atrocities of Soviet Russia, Nazi Germany, and other dictatorships that explicitly rejected the legal doctrines of the Enlightenment have revived these horrendous practices of the Old Regime. The Holy Office, responsible for the conduct of the papal Inquisition since 1542, was replaced by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1965.

In retrospect, it must be conceded that the number of homosexual victims of the Inquisition, even at its fiercest, was but a small percent of the whole. Marranos [nominal Christians of Jewish descent], Nicodemites, sundry heretics, and other offenders outside the sexual realm made up the bulk of those persecuted by the inquisitors, while a minority—perhaps only a fifth—of those convicted of sodomy were actually burnt at the stake. The object of the show trials and executions was to intimidate other, potential offenders, not to exterminate an entire segment of the population, since the modern notion of the "exclusive homosexual" did not exist at this time.

It is clear from the historical record that even in that era a few thinkers did everything in their power to calm the irrational panic unleashed by credulity and superstition, so that the peak of intolerance was always followed by a decline in the number of prosecutions and in the severity of the sentences. The Iberian peninsula seems to have reached the height of persecution of sodomy first, in the earlier half of the seventeenth century; France [without the device of Inquisition] in the second half under Louis XIV; Holland in the first half of the eighteenth century, and last of all Protestant England in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. By the time such Continental reformers as Beccaria and Voltaire began their attack on the criminal practice of the Old Regime, mass trials and executions for sodomy were largely a thing of the past, and an enlightened public opinion was preparing for the abolition of all offenses motivated by superstition and fanaticism—a step finally taken by the Constituent Assembly during the French Revolution, some time before the persecution of sodomites was to reach its peak in England.


William A. Percy

INSANITY, MORAL

Moral insanity, defined as "madness consisting in a morbid perversion of the natural feelings, affections, inclinations, temper, habits, moral dispositions, and natural impulses, without any remarkable disorder or defect of the intellect or knowing and reasoning faculties, and particularly without any insane illusion or hallucination," was a widespread psychiatric concept in the nineteenth century. In the English-speaking world it was particularly propagated by James Cowles Prichard (1786–1848), whose fame, however, rests upon his work as an anthropologist and comparative linguist. Educated at Cambridge and then at Oxford, in 1811 he became a physician at Saint Peter's Hospital in Bristol and in 1814 at the Bristol Infirmary, besides which he developed a substantial private practice.
In the *Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine* Prichard published an article "Insanity," which he afterwards expanded into a separate treatise that became a classic in this branch of medical literature. Its outstanding contribution was the definition of the form of mental derangement that gained the name of "moral insanity." The subject had earlier been broached by Philippe Pinel (1745–1826), the founder of modern psychiatry, and then by his pupil, Jean Etienne Dominique Esquirol (1772–1840), who wrote extensively on the moral causes of insanity, which even more than his predecessor he considered to predominate over the physical ones in a ratio as high as 4 to 1, as in a memoir which he presented to the Society of Medicine in 1818. In the eyes of his contemporaries Prichard’s merit was that of proving for the first time the existence of insanity "without marked intellectual aberration."

In *A Treatise on Insanity and Other Disorders Affecting the Mind* (1835), Prichard only incidentally touched upon what were later to be called sexual perversions or parhedonias. For him the fundamental criterion of the pathological was quantitative, so that he could write of instances "in which the unusual intensity of particular passions or emotions has been thought to constitute mental illness" and add that "a series of compound epithets has been invented for the purpose of affording names to such states of the mind and its affectations. Nostalgia [here meaning a longing for an absent lover] and erotomania have been considered as disorders of sentiment; satyriasis and nymphomania of the physical feelings. The excessive intensity of any passion is disorder in a moral sense; it may depend physically on certain states of the constitution; but this does not so clearly constitute madness as the irregular and perverted manifestation of desires and aversions." Prichard concludes with the pertinent remark that "this species of insanity has been the real source of moral phenomena of an anomalous and unusual kind, and of certain perversions of natural inclination which excite the greatest disgust and abhorrence."

Prichard further conceded that courts and medical writers in England recognized no such disorder as moral insanity, where insanity was held coterminous with mental illusion, with what German writers called Wahnsinn. "English writers . . . know nothing of moral insanity either as requiring control in the exercise of civil rights, or as destroying or lessening culpability in criminal ones." Thus from both the medical and the forensic standpoints Prichard’s thinking never reached the insight which psychiatrists from the late 1860s onward were to achieve—but only after reading the work of the pioneer homosexual apologists Ulrichs and Kertbeny. He could not go beyond the concept of a quantitative change in the sexual drive, as did his successors, who recognized and defined a set of qualitative ones which they classified as perversions of the sexual instinct and held that they limited, if not entirely abolished, the responsibility of the subject in criminal cases.

Another concept propagated by Prichard was that of monomania, which had been introduced by Esquirol in 1814. The British author defined this as "partial insanity, in which the understanding is partially disordered or under the influence of some particular illness, referring to one subject, and involving one train of ideas, while the intellectual powers appear, when exercised on other subjects, to be in a great measure unimpaired." This notion did influence early psychiatric authors on sexual inversion such as Julien Chevalier, who in his dissertation of 1885 classified the phenomenon as an "instinctive monomania," that is to say, an illness affecting only one aspect of the instinctive life while leaving all the others sound and normal. Individuals suffering from instinctive monomanias could even possess great intellectual gifts, could be "dégénéré supérieurs" (superior degenerates). The abandonment of the whole concept natu-
rally invalidated this particular application of it as well. Discarded also was Esquirol’s emphasis on moral rather than physical causes of mental illness, which Prichard had dutifully echoed in his work of 1835. On the eve of Westphal’s discovery, a paper was published in an American psychiatric journal which analyzed recent statistics to show that all cases were now ascribed either to physical or to “unknown” causes. In other words, that the notion of moral causality had been abandoned. This triumph of materialism in psychiatry paved the way for the acceptance of the concept of psychopathia sexualis by Krafft-Ebing and later authors. It is instructive that Westphal’s immediate predecessor in the psychiatric division of the Charité (Berlin’s general hospital), Wilhelm Griesinger [1817–1868], actually had a male homosexual patient under examination, but dismissed his sexual proclivities as a “revolting aberration.” Only when armed with the insights furnished by the early homosexual apologists could the new generation of psychiatrists overcome the narrow vision—and spontaneous aversion—that had hobbled such investigators as Prichard and Griesinger.

Warren Johansson

**INTERMEDIATE STAGES, SEXUAL**

Homosexuality has sometimes been regarded as a type of sexual intermediacy, part of a continuum that stretches between the male and female poles. The notion stems from the propensity of the early investigators of sexual abnormality to devise conceptual schemes that would embrace larger categories of psychopathology, and also fit their new discoveries into the evolutionary framework that had been popularized by Charles Darwin and Ernst Haeckel. Richard von Krafft-Ebing, in his *Psychopathia sexualis* (first edition 1886), carried this schematizing tendency to inordinate lengths, even classifying delusion of change of sex as the last degree of abnormality of which sexual inversion was the first.

Magnus Hirschfeld followed his lead by changing the original title of the scholarly organ of the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, *Jahrbuch für homosexuelle Forschungen*, to *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* (Yearbook for Sexual Intergrades), which first appeared in 1899 and lasted, with some interruptions, until 1923, when catastrophic inflation deprived the Committee of financial resources. Hirschfeld, with propaganda for repeal of Paragraph 175 of the Penal Code of the German Reich as his aim, for years endeavored to prove that homosexuals belonged to an “intermediate sex” that fell on the continuum between the male and the female and was characterized by a whole set of traits that were located on the statistical mean between the norms for the opposite sexes. He laid great stress on subjects who displayed marked inversion of the secondary sexual characters [pronounced effeminacy in men or masculinity in women], conveniently ignoring those homosexuals and lesbians who, while being exclusively attracted to their own sex, in no way depart from its normal physical type. Conmenstrate with the Zwischenstufen-theorie, the pages of the *Jahrbuch* carried articles on transvestism, hermaphroditism, and androgyny from the standpoint of cultural history as well as material on all aspects of homosexuality proper.

This notion of sexual intergrades, confusing the orientation of the sexual drive with the anatomical traits of the sexes, stemmed in part from the classical notion of the hermaphrodite as combining male and female, and also from the notion that *natura non facit saltus*, “Nature makes no sudden leaps,” but rather all phenomena are arranged along a continuum within which a certain group may be legitimately so defined. Sigmund Freud rejected the whole notion, maintaining that it was absolutely incorrect to set the homosexual apart as a special type or variety of human being, and that all human
beings are capable of a homosexual object choice and have already made one in the unconscious. The popularity of psychoanalysis caused the intermediate stage idea to be abandoned, even if it continues to figure in the reprints of the English translation of the twelfth edition of Kraft-Ebing and similar works from the first decade of the century.

If, in its original form, the idea of sexual intermediate stages no longer enjoys currency, it reflects a broader conceptual tendency that is found in other realms. Many are dissatisfied with the rigidity that they detect in such binary oppositions as good and bad, kind and cruel, extrovert and introvert, male and female, and would prefer to replace them with a scale admitting gradations between the two poles. In their first Report (1948) Alfred Kinsey and his associates proposed to abandon the dichotomy between heterosexual and homosexual, and to replace it with a seven-point scale. More recent gender studies have tended to emphasize states of androgyny between the male and female. Although these approaches may raise problems of explanation in terms of underlying biological mechanisms, they reflect an enduring feature of the modern mind: the quest to overcome dualism.

Warren Johansson

INTERTESTAMENTAL LITERATURE

This term designates a body of Jewish religious writings which in the main fall between the last writings of the Old Testament (mid-second century B.C.), on the one hand, and the closing of the New Testament and the creation of the Mishnah (late second century), on the other. Traditionally these texts are distinguished from the Old Testament Apocrypha, a relatively privileged group which, though not part of the Bible proper, is accorded deuterocanonical status by some Christian groups. As cultural documents the intertestamental writings—though rarely consulted by the general public today—are of incalculable value in helping to trace the multifaceted evolution of Judaism in Hellenistic and Roman times.

Among other points these texts bear witness to the continuing Jewish rejection of homosexual behavior. The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs contain repeated condemnations of fornication and sexual immorality, and the Testament of Naphtali (3:4–5) notes that the people of Sodom changed the order of their nature, a key concept: that recurs in the Pauline discussion in Romans 1:26–27. The Book of Jubilees asserts that the Sodomites "were polluting themselves and they were fornicating in their flesh and they were causing pollution upon the earth. And thus the Lord will execute judgment like the judgment of Sodom on places where they act according to the pollution of Sodom" (Jubilees 16:5–6). This is the first specific mention of Sodom as an example of sexual depravity whose punishment will be repeated in the future. The passages in the Second Book of Enoch are interpolations found only in a manuscript written in Poltava in 1679, but the Testament of Isaac contains a description of the torments of the Sodomites in Hell. As is well known, the Old Testament itself contains no explicit indication of infamal punishments.

The Sybiline Oracles condemn homosexual activity in numerous passages, such as 3:185: "Male will have intercourse with male and they will set up boys in houses of ill-fame," while in 3:596–600 the Jews are praised because "they do not engage in impious intercourse with boys, as do" many other nations, "transgressing the holy law of God immortal." This passage establishes that for the Jews of the Hellenistic diaspora the taboo on male homosexuality had become one of the distinctive mores of their religion that set it apart from all others in its claim to possess a higher morality. For the proto-Christian community it was to be a norm of moral purity as well. Thus the intertes-
tamental texts repeat and amplify the Biblical injunctions against homosexual behavior, even in the neighborhood of host peoples who tolerated such activity and knew no religious taboo against it. While the exclusiveness of the Jews and their disdain for the polytheism of the other peoples of the Hellenistic world precluded general adoption of their laws, Christianity was to retain the sexual provisions of the Mosaic code after it seceded from Judaism in a bid to become the universal religion of the Greco-Roman world.

Warren Johansson

**INVENTOR LEGENDS**

In some traditions, the introduction of homosexual conduct to human society has been ascribed to a single individual. Some Greek writers held that same-sex relations among men had been devised and spread by Orpheus, perhaps as a result of his disappointment over the loss of Eurydice. In this story homosexual behavior is not regarded as a misfortune, but as a gift on a par with Orpheus' celebrated musical accomplishments. Pederasty in fact had a divine archetype in Zeus' love for Ganymede. Other Greek sources attribute the invention of human homosexuality to King Laius, who kidnapped Chrysippus, the beautiful son of his host Pelops, during his exile from Thebes. It was this outrage that set in motion the tragic fate of his son Oedipus, a fact rarely cited by interpreters of Sophocles' trilogy or by those who adhere to the psychoanalytic construct known as the "Oedipus complex." The Chrysippus story was the subject of a lost play by Euripides. Apollodorus ascribes pederasty to yet another figure, the singer Thanayris.

Among the Arabs a curious reversal occurred in that Lot, urged by God in the Hebrew Bible to flee Sodom because of its devotion to vice (Genesis 19), was actually made responsible for the practice itself, so that in Arabic homosexuals may be called ahl Lūṭ, "the people of Lot."

Did homosexuality, as an aspect of human culture, in fact have an inventor, or at least a phase of introduction to human society? Any answer to this question, like that of the appearance of human language, would have to be hypothetical. To the extent that homosexuality is found among animals, it would not seem to be a human discovery at all. Yet historical sequences show that homosexual behavior has undergone changes in social organization—as from the Greeks to the Romans, through the Middle Ages, and down to modern times. Where these changes can be monitored, as in this sequence, they seem to be the result of the gradual shift of ideological, economic, familial, and other factors, which could not readily respond to the suggestion of any single individual. Thus while the inventor question is useful to raise social elements in the origins of particular forms of homosexual behavior, in its literal sense it seems to be a false quest.

Wayne R. Dynes

**INVERSION**

Since the end of the nineteenth century some medical and other writers have equated homosexuality with inversion. For some, the term meant simply the reversal of the current of attraction from the opposite to one's own sex. Others believed that inversion entails also an adoption of patterns of thinking, feeling, and action that are characteristic of the other sex. In this broader sense it amounts to effeminacy in the male, and virginitiness in the female, but it would not include the majority of male homosexuals and lesbians who do not show these traits. Studies of androgyny have also suggested that there is a continuum rather than a sharp separation between the two poles of male and female, so that inversion in the sense of a complete volte-face does not seem to occur. In any event, the terms inversion and invert have acquired a negative, clinical aura, and for this reason they are less commonly used today.
An examination of the history of these terms is helpful in understanding the connotations they carry today. In 1878, in a professional article in the *Rivista di freniatria, di psichiatria e di medicina legale*, the Italian alienist Arrigo Tamassia introduced the term *inversione*, which was quickly adopted into other languages as well as Italian to render the cumbersome German expression *die conträre Sexualempfindung* which Karl Westphal had used in 1869. The new coinage owed its success not only to its grammatical malleability—yielding the noun *invert* and the adjective *inverted*—but also to the fact that while the word itself was new, the ideas on which it drew were deeply rooted in Western consciousness.

The byways of the history of ideas reveal many episodes of the use of the spatial metaphors of “backwards-to-forwards” and “upside down” to symbolize social abnormality. Sometimes the inversion procedure is temporal rather than spatial, as in reciting the alphabet or some ritual formula backwards to produce a magical spell.

In Euripides’ play *Medea* (fifth century B.C.), the social disturbance of role reversal catalyzed by the heroine’s assumption of masculine qualities is evoked by the image of rivers running backwards in their course. And Orpheus, who according to some Greek sources invented pederasty, was supposed to have made wild oaks migrate from their mountain habitat to the seashore, and to reduce savage beasts to lamb-like docility, thus altering the natural order by switching things to their opposites. In Hellenistic times, the poet Sotades (third century B.C.) invented a kind of verse which was innocuous when read forwards, but obscene backwards.

The sexual preclusions of the Romans for the “posterior Venus” (anal receptivity) were held to be revealed in the very name Roma, which is a backwards spelling for *amor* (“love”). In the Koran, God turns the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah literally upside down. Medie-

val texts, such as the *Roman de la rose*, speak of sodomites doing things à rebours (“in reverse”), an expression that served Joris-Karl Huysmans in 1884 as the title for his novel of aristocratic perversion. Sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe witnessed the popularity of a genre of popular prints known as *Le Monde à l’Envers* or *The World Upside Down*, whereby alongside such outlandish things as fish nesting in trees and men plowing the sea, we find the wife going out to hunt while the husband stays home to mind the baby, and similar instances of sex-role reversal.

As used by late nineteenth-century writers, the word inversion often had an application that went beyond sexual orientation. The medical authorities who studied “inversion” were fascinated by gender-role reversal—masculine women and feminine men—posing such purportedly biological tendencies as the root cause of “inverted” sexual object choice, rather than vice versa. Certain writers preferred to restrict the term to the narrower meaning of the reversal of the secondary sexual characters as distinct from the sexual orientation proper; thus only the effeminate homosexual and the viraginous lesbian were “inverts” in this sense.

The idea was used in a number of creative ways by Marcel Proust in his great novel sequence *A la recherche du temps perdu* (1913–27) which shows that it need not always be negative. One of his homosexual characters, Robert de Saint-Loup, seeks out danger in battle instead of fleeing it, while Baron Charlus becomes more pro-German rather than less so as war nears. In a larger sense the novel’s goal—the gradual recovery of more and more layers of memory—is a process of inversion or retrogression. This great enterprise is mirrored in Proust’s fascination with musical techniques, including the device of melodic inversion.

*Wayne R. Dynes*
**Iran**

Formerly known to the West as Persia, the name Iran was selected by the modern Pahlevi dynasty as a sign of the country’s “Aryan,” or Indo-European, heritage. This ethnically diverse land contains large numbers of Persians, Turks, nomadic tribesmen, and smaller numbers of Jews, Assyrians, and Arabs. The national language (Farsi) is Indo-European, not Semitic; Iran is not an Arab country.

*The Pre-Islamic Period.* The history of homosexuality in Iran has been both influential and contradictory. Zoroastrianism, the teachings of Zarathustra, is the most homophobic ancient faith known to modern scholarship. The fateful Zoroastrian doctrine (that all homosexuals, active or passive, are inherently demonic, and must be put to death when detected) was to make its way into the religious tradition of the Jews, who escaped their Babylonian captivity under Persian rule in 538 B.C.

This condemnation seems to have made its way but slowly against the much older Iranian traditions of polytheism and initiatory pederasty, traditions similar to those of the Greeks and probably inherited from a common ancestral Indo-European behavior pattern. During the Achaemenid period (sixth and fifth centuries B.C.), these two Iranian religious cultures were in conflict, as were two similarly warring faiths in the Palestine of the Old Testament. The Mazdaist/Zoroastrian cult reached its zenith of social control under the Sassanids (second to seventh centuries of our era). The only surviving Zoroastrian documents date from this time, when factions urged the Mazdaist clergy to a formal codification in the Pahlevi language.

The Sassanian church was a cruel persecutor of other religions, which included this time Jews, Christians, Manichaeans, and even Buddhists toward the east. The battle with the Christians was especially fierce, and it is a minor irony of history that Christianity seemed destined to triumph over Mazdaism in Iran, when the Arab whirlwind of conquest decisively overcame both of them.

*Islam.* The Persians were conquered by the Arabs in A.D. 637. The Mazdaist faith was cast out and replaced by Islam, and the first three fourths of the oldest Pahlevi Avesta perished during the conquest. (The older religion now survives chiefly among the Parsees of India, who fled Iran during this epoch.)

The Arabs were only superficially intolerant of homosexuality, and certainly the Koran specified no earthly punishment for such behavior (it did, however, repeat the Sodom story in various places, most notably Sura 6, “The Heights,” 80–84, where homosexual behavior is specified as the unique reason for the destruction of Sodom). The Islamic hadith, or oral traditions of Muhammad, held only that homosexuality was a sin greater than zina, or fornication, and specified no earthly punishment. The devout Muslim was expected to know that God would be displeased, and this knowledge (added to the desire for paradise) would be enough to control his behavior.

The outcome was a toleration and even celebration of pederasty in classical Islam, and much of the Arab poetry of this time (e.g., that of Abu Nuwas) is devoted to boys and their beauty. As a result, over a period of time the people of Persia once again moderated or reversed their earlier position. The most famous Persian poets were familiar with the love of young men—Hafiz, Rumi, Sa‘di, and the astronomer-poet Omar Khayyam. The oft-cited lines “A Loaf of Bread beneath the Bough, A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse—and Thou / Beside me singing in the Wilderness” are addressed to a young man. The matched themes of wine and boys became staples of Arabic and Persian poetry of the classic period, and echoed down the centuries into the gardens of Moorish Granada.

The conquered Persians did, however, formalize their anger at the Arab conquest into the Shiite schismatic movement. (The mainstream of Islam is Sunni.)
The Shiite faction has, from the beginning, been innately mystical, revolutionary, and capable of extreme sadism, masochism, and puritanism. It has hosted the whirling dervishes and the poetry of wine and boys, but it has also been the school of the Old Man of the Mountains, the fanatic who drugged his murderers with hashish and duped them into the belief that he held the keys to paradise on earth. (The term “assassin” derives from the hashish used by this group of thugs, who would risk anything for a return to the paradise they had glimpsed.)

In more recent times, this historical confusion about the subject has produced a sort of schizophrenia in the Iranian mind. Travelers from the nineteenth century report a man executing his son in the town square for the “crime,” yet clearly many Iranians were and are devotees of pederasty, the Farsi term bachebazi (lit. “boyplay”) being the equivalent of the ancient Greek paidika. In modern times under the Shah, Teheran had open gay bars and male hustlers were available. [These tended to come from the south of Teheran, particularly the impoverished suburb of Rayy, often under the guidance of tough jatlyy [brawling, folk-hero types] as their pimps and protectors.]

The overthrow of the Shah and the installation of the Khomeini regime saw another abrupt reversal. Basing their legitimacy on “Islamic fundamentalism,” the mullahs [religious teachers] soon began executing homosexuals en masse in town squares—acting like Zoroastrians while citing Islam. They were also executing the few remaining Iranian Zoroastrians, which should come as no surprise to anyone who has been following this singularly erratic government.

The Iranian Bahá’í sect, which claims to integrate all the great religions, also suffered at the hands of the mullahs. The Bahá’í had never made any formal statement about homosexuality, finding this question difficult to solve, but unofficially held that homosexuality was a “curable disease,” which shows they had gathered elements of psychiatry into their ecumenical mixture.

An ironic sidelight on the new regime is the fact that, for centuries, the Iranian people had regarded the mullahs themselves as generic homosexuals, and respectable Persian fathers would routinely warn their sons to guard their chastity during religious instruction.

Geoff Puterbaugh

IRELAND

In the first millennium B.C. the ancient Celts of the European continent were noted for their initiatory and military homosexuality. Yet as the mists of prehistory lift in Ireland in the fifth century of our era, no trace of these institutions is recorded. This absence (or silence) undoubtedly reflects the thoroughness of the process of Christianization, initiated by the quasi-legendary St. Patrick. Yet the Irish Church pioneered in a new system of penitentials, a procedure that allowed sinners to “work off” their infraction with specified periods of restriction. The penalties for homosexual conduct found in these documents reveal a more lenient attitude toward homosexual conduct, while at the same time initiating the bureaucratic approach that was to eventuate, centuries later, in the confessional system of the Roman Catholic Church. Irish missionaries active in remote areas of the British Isles and the European continent were sometimes linked by bonds of intense affection, a homosocial (if not homosexual) pattern that was to recur among the later medieval clergy (“particular friendships”).

Beginning in the ninth century devastation by foreign invaders, first the Vikings and then the English, complicated the history of Ireland. In the present state of our knowledge we can only point to a few homosexual episodes before recent decades. In 1640 John Atherton, bishop of Waterford and Lismore, was convicted of sodomy and hanged. There is some indica-
tion that his execution occurred because he had offended both the powerful Earl of Cork and the still significant Roman Catholic party of the country. Two centuries later another high ecclesiastic became notorious throughout Europe. Jocelyn Percy, Bishop of Clogher, was in 1811 involved in a homosexual case in Dublin, for which he was not prosecuted. In 1822, however, he was apprehended in London, and only managed to escape serious punishment by fleeing to Scotland, where for some years he made his living as a servant.

Unlike the tragedy of Oscar Wilde, which was enacted entirely outside the emerald isle, that of Roger Casement is closely connected with Irish politics. Casement, an Irish patriot, was arrested in Ireland in 1916, after disembarking from a German submarine. On his person the British found a diary which recorded his homosexual activities in some detail. During his subsequent imprisonment and trial the London government "leaked" portions of the diary to erode sympathy for Casement, who was then executed for treason. For decades defenders of Casement disputed the authenticity of the diary, but it is now generally conceded to be genuine.

The preeminence of the Roman Catholic church in the new Irish Free State (1922–) meant repressive attitudes with regard to family and sex. The new republic retained the English laws of 1861 and 1885 against homosexual conduct. Pubs (bars) in Dublin were discreetly "mixed," and many Irish gays and lesbians undoubtedly joined the waves of immigration to Britain and America. During World War II and after, the country benefited from economic and social development that culminated in its joining the European Common Market. Efforts to unify the island by ending British sovereignty in the northern six counties proved unsuccessful. Sexual restrictions were slow to fall, though Ireland felt the impact of the American and European gay liberation movement after 1969. Homosexuality was decriminalized in Northern Ireland as a result of a favorable decision handed down by the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg) in the Jeff Dudgeon case in 1982. Yet the Catholic preamble to the Republic’s constitution was quoted by the Dublin Chief Justice in his 1983 opinion dismissing the suit of David Norris to have the laws against gay men struck down. Continuing control of educational, medical, and social services gives the Roman Catholic church power to mold consciousness throughout the Republic of Ireland—but not in the larger world of the European Community to which Ireland belongs. Norris, the country’s only openly gay legislator, appealed the case, and on October 26, 1988, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the Republic’s sodomy laws violate Article 8 of the European Charter of Human Rights.

The National Gay Federation established a noteworthy premises in Hirschfeld Centre in Dublin, and telephone "hotlines" were set up and successfully maintained. Unfortunately a fire destroyed the Centre in 1987, but organizational work continues. For a time the Irish capital was also the headquarters of the International Gay Association. Despite some problems with violence, today gay life flourishes in the cities of Dublin and Cork, and, in Northern Ireland, in Belfast.


Wayne R. Dynes

IRRUMATION
See Oral Sex.

ISHERWOOD, CHRISTOPHER (1904–1986)
Anglo-American novelist. Born in upper-middle-class circumstances, Isherwood became acquainted with W. H. Auden, his life-long friend and occasional collaborator, during their English public
school days. In 1930–33 Isherwood lived in Berlin, where he gathered the material for some of his most effective writing. After Hitler’s rise to power, he moved from country to country in an effort to stay together with his young German lover Heinz. He described this period with considerable frankness in his later memoir *Christopher and His Kind* (1976). During this period he worked with Auden (who had emerged as a major poet) on three plays, and they traveled to China together in 1938. Isherwood then settled in Southern California where in 1953 he took another young lover, Don Bachardy, who remained with him until Isherwood’s death. Bachardy acquired some renown as an artist, creating many portraits of the writer and his friends.

Isherwood first found his footing as a writer in the material written in the 1930s and later collected in *The Berlin Stories* (1954). In these sketches of expatriation and sexual eccentricity, of poverty and political turmoil, he introduced the naturalistic method he called “I am a camera.” Through several stage and screen metamorphoses this material came to play an important part in the post-War fascination with Weimar decadence.

Homosexuality, which was only one of several themes in his earlier novels, became increasingly prominent with the passage of time. *The World in the Evening* (1954), though later dismissed by the author as unsuccessful, contains what may be the first satisfactory explanation of camp. *A Single Man* (1964) is the portrait of a lonely, but not despairing Los Angeles gay man, while *Down There on a Visit* (1966) offers a portrait of Danny Fouts, said to be the most expensive hustler in the world. In Southern California Isherwood became interested in mysticism under the influence of a fellow expatriate, Gerald Heard, who later emerged as something of a philosopher of the homophile movement. For several years the novelist was a devoted disciple of Swami Prabhavananda, a Vedantist who had settled in Hollywood (see *My Guru and Myself*, 1980). Isherwood was also active in the homophile rights organization, ONE.

Isherwood’s writing has a spare elegance, but he declined to participate in the avant-garde experiments of his time. In all likelihood, his works will continue to be read for their candid picture of the life trajectory of a gay man in a time that saw enormous social and sexual changes.


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**Geoff Puterbaugh**

**ISLAM**

A major world religion, Islam stems from the preaching of the Prophet Muhammad in Arabia in the seventh century. It is based on the principle that the believer (Arabic: *muslim*) surrenders his will (Arabic: *islam*) to the will of the one and only God (Allah). God’s will is expressed in Islamic law, consisting of a system of duties which every Muslim has to submit to by virtue of his belief. Islamic law, also known as the *Shari’ah* (path), forms a comprehensive code of behavior, a divinely ordained path of conduct that guides the Muslim in the practical expression of his religious conviction toward the goal of divine favor in paradise. Law is based on the *Koran*, the word of God as revealed to his Prophet, on the *Hadith*, which is a collection of the words and deeds attributed to the Prophet which are used as precedents, and on the interpretations of the Islamic jurists (Ulama).

**Basic Features.** A central theme is Islamic law and its theoretical attitude toward male homosexual behavior, and how this attitude relates to the way Muslims generally deal with such behavior in practice. It is difficult to speak of Islamic law in general, however, because of the differences of opinion among various Islamic law schools and sects (such as the...
Shi'ite, while the same can be said of Islamic attitude in practice, as it varies in specific historical periods and regions. Even with a focus on material from the contemporary Middle East, an emphasis adopted in this article, general conclusions must be tentative.

Islam considers sexuality an absolutely normal and natural urge of every human being. Symbolic of this positive attitude is the important place sex is accorded in paradise, which will be the fulfillment of the spiritual and bodily self. Islamic representations of paradise depict a height of delights, with, among other things, girls whose virginity is continually renewed, immortal boys as beautiful as hidden pearls, perpetual erections and infinite orgasms. On earth, however, because of human imperfection, sex has a problematic side, which makes regulation necessary. Unregulated sex threatens the social order and leads to anarchy and chaos, and therefore has to be restricted to marriage. Marriage is a social obligation, and forms the basis of orderly society, giving expression to the divine harmony consisting of the complementarity of men and women. An essential and sacred part of marriage, sex is considered to be a tribute to divine will, an acknowledgement of God's kindness and generosity, and a foretaste of the joys of paradise, which will sometimes lead to a renewal of his creation. Social order and the God-given harmony of life are threatened by the suppression of sexuality in celibacy and by sexual acts outside of marriage, heterosexual as well as homosexual. Celibacy is regarded as boring and unnatural, and rejected because it would inevitably lead to sinful feelings and to a knocking on forbidden doors. Sexual activity outside of marriage, adultery, is sharply condemned by Islamic law as a crime against humanity, which opens the door to many other shameful acts, and affects the reputation and property of the family, thereby disrupting the social fabric.

Homosexual behavior (Ziwar), i.e., sexual acts between members of the same sex, is considered to be adultery, being sex with an illicit partner. A person who performs such actions (Ziti) is regarded as extraordinarily corrupt, because he challenges the harmony of the sexes and topsyturns God's creation: "Cursed are the men who behave effeminately, and cursed are the women who betray a masculine way." Homosexual behavior is actually considered a revolt against God which violates the order of the world, and would be a source of evil and anarchy. The only remedy against such unnatural and sinful feelings is to fight and suppress them: "He who falls in love, conceals his passion, is chaste and patiently abstains, is forgiven by God and received into Paradise." Those who stubbornly persist in their behavior, however, await severe punishments, at least theoretically.

The Koran and the Hadith. In the Koran, homosexual behavior is explicitly condemned: "And as for the two of you who are guilty thereof, punish them both. If they repent and mend their ways, let them be. God is forgiving and merciful." [4:16]. Homosexual behavior is further mentioned in the parable of the apostle Lot, which is repeatedly told in the Koran, and relates of the corrupted and evil-minded people of Lot's village, who transgressed consciously against the bounds of God. The behavior of these unbelievers was considered evil in general, their avarice led to inhospitality and robbery, which in turn led to the humiliation of strangers by mistreatment and rape. It was their homosexual behavior, however, which was seen as symptomatic of their attitudes, because it was regarded as "an abomination such as none in all the world has ever committed before." Obstinately refusing to accept God's message brought by Lot, the villagers were punished by God raining upon them "stones of heated clay" which killed them all and left their village ruined as a sign of the power of God for all to see. "The doings of the people of Lot" even became
proverbial, alluding specifically to homosexual behavior, while the Arabic words for homosexual behavior and for a person who performs such actions both derive from Lot's name.

In the Hadith, homosexual behavior is condemned harshly: "Whenever a male mounts another male, the throne of God trembles", the angels look on in loathing and say: "Lord, why do you not command the earth to punish them and the heaven to rain stones on them?" God replies: "I am forebearing; nothing will escape me." Beside dreadful torments and humiliations in the world to come, homosexual behavior had to be punished on earth: "If you see two people who act like the people of Lot, then kill the active and the passive."

Legal Sanctions. The punishment which the Islamic jurists generally prescribe for adultery, and therefore also for homosexual behavior, is stoning to death for married people, and one hundred lashes for unmarried people. Persons who are married are punished more harshly because their behavior had severe consequences in regard to property and reputation, and would disrupt the family and the institution of marriage, both so important for the social order. The extravagant punishments which are prescribed are meant to have a deterring effect, and for that reason punishments are even carried out publicly.

Discouragement and repentance are considered more important than punishment, therefore the following conditions have to be met before condemnation is possible: Four adult Muslims of the male sex, of unblemished integrity of character, have to swear that they have been eyewitnesses to the carnal act itself. Less than four witnesses will lead to a punishment of the witnesses themselves, while the false accuser will receive eighty lashes, because of slander. Perpetrators can only be condemned when adult, Muslim, sane, and acting out of free will. A confession is sufficient for condemnation, if four times repeated. Before it is accepted, however, the judge has to point out to the accused the consequences of his confession, and the fact that repentance before the giving of testimony will be punished less harshly.

The fulfillment of all these conditions seems almost out of the question, leading to the conclusion that in practice it is only in very exceptional circumstances that persons are convicted and punished for adultery, and thus for homosexual behavior.

Theory and Practice. Theoretically homosexual behavior is sharply condemned by Islam, but in practice it is at present, and has been in the past, for the most part tolerantly treated and frequently occurring in countries where Islam predominates. The established societal norms and morals of Islam are accepted as unchangeable and respected by the majority of Muslims, which does not imply however that they will or can conform to them in practice. Human beings are considered by Islam as imperfect, and are expected to make mistakes and consequently to sin.

God is understanding of man's weaknesses, and when a person is sincere in his shame and shows repentance of his sinful behavior, he will be mercifully forgiven by God. In practice it is only public transgression of Islamic morals that is condemned, and therefore Islamic law stresses the role of eye-witnesses to an offence. The police are not allowed to go in search of possible sinners, who can only be caught red-handed, and not behind the "veil of decency" of their closed doors. In a way, concealment is advised, because to disclose a dreadful sin would be a sin in itself.

But it is not only condemnation by the law which can be avoided by secrecy, the same can be said of shame, a concept which plays an important part in the social role pattern of Islamic countries. Shame is engendered by what an individual thinks that others might think of him, and arises when public behavior is not according to the prescribed role, and therefore improper and disgraceful, bringing
obloquy on the individual and tarnishing the reputation and standing of his family.

This emphasis on externals in Islamic law as well as in the social concept of shame, with its connivance in theoretically forbidden and shameful behavior, could be deemed hypocritical. But such a judgment would be beside the point, missing the essence of the entire matter, which is that in principle the validity of Islamic morals and of the social role pattern is confirmed by not openly resisting it, and it is just that which maintains the system as it is.

Kicking at the boundaries of permissibility by telling obscene and shocking anecdotes, sometimes expressed in literature but mostly in the conversation and speech of the people, has always been popular, but as long as it did not give rise to publicly unlawful behavior or to open resistance to morality, it posed no serious problem for the social order.

The generally tolerant attitude toward homosexual behavior in practice can partly be explained by the fact that it will usually take place discreetly. Moreover it does not have serious personal consequences such as, for example, heterosexual adultery would have. There is no question of abuse of possession [which a wife is of her husband] or of loss of honor and face of husband and family, while there fortunately exists no danger of pregnancy, with all its consequences.

Practical tolerance therefore is the rule with respect to discreet homosexual behavior, but what about homosexuality itself? Islamic law in theory only condemns homosexual acts and does not express itself on the subject of homosexuality. This is not in the least surprising, however, if we bear in mind that homosexuality is a western concept, crystallizing in the nineteenth century and stemming from the notion that sexual behavior is characteristic of someone’s personality and identity, and therefore influences his behavior in general, leading to a certain lifestyle. Such a concept is essentially foreign to countries where Islam predominates, because there (sexual) behavior is not so much determined by personal preferences or someone’s personality, as by a person’s role and the circumstances in which he finds himself. Generally speaking, a person behaves in a particular situation as much as possible according to the social role pattern that prescribes whether a certain kind of behavior in that situation is proper or not. He conforms to this, because otherwise he would bring shame on himself and his family, and lose face and honor. For that reason it is, for example, not particularly important if a sexual act is homo- or heterosexual, but rather which role is performed (active, as is proper for a man, or passive, like a woman), and if the act has social consequences or not. Therefore concepts like homo- and heterosexuality make no sense in cultures like these. Such contemporary western principles as “I am a homosexual, and thus I do not marry” are laughed at, because a person has to comply with his role, and therefore is expected to marry and beget children. As long as he maintains his role in public, his private preferences and idiosyncrasies are nobody’s business but his own, that is if he is discrete about them, and harms no one.

The Repression in Iran. What, then, of the executions of homosexuals in Iran between 1979 and 1984? The problem here is a confusion of terms, because the “homosexuality” meant in Iran is far different from the western concept of it. In Iran “homosexuality” has become a negative label, as it has in other Islamic countries, but fortunately with less extreme consequences. The label “homosexuality” refers to behavior which clashes with the God-given order of society and with the social role pattern; it is behavior which violates public decency, and is moreover seen as a typical example of western decadence. “Homosexuality” refers specifically to passive homosexual behavior, which is considered particularly objectionable, because it turns God’s creation topsyturvy,
and threatens the God-given harmony between men and women, which is reflected in the social role pattern. A man who plays the active, penetrator role in a homosexual act, behaves like a man, and is therefore not considered "homosexual." Passive homosexual behavior, however, implies being penetrated like a woman, and is considered to be extremely scandalous and humiliating for a man, because it is feminine behavior. Deviant behavior like this was in olden times viewed as abnormal and unnatural, and sometimes even characterized as an illness, because it was incomprehensible that a man could voluntarily choose to be dishonored and debased in the role of a woman. More common is the belief that sexual behavior that deviates from the norm causes illness, a notion soon to be confirmed by the appearance of AIDS.

Another myth that influences the negative labeling of "homosexuality" is that of the foreignness of sexually deviant behavior. In past centuries the Arabs ascribed homosexual behavior to Persian influence, and nowadays it is mostly regarded as originating from the West—a rather paradoxical viewpoint, because it used to be the other way around. Western society is viewed as shameless and depraved, permissiveness making license public and ultimately leading to social chaos. "Homosexuality" epitomizes this western decadence, this "unbridled riot of wantonness."

Finally, "homosexuality" also refers to the public transgression of morals, the conscious refusal to hide behind the veil of secrecy, and thus openly challenging established norms and values. As in the story of Lot, it is today "homosexuality" that has become symptomatic of evil behavior in general. "Homosexuality" would inevitably lead to chaos and decay, and therefore "homosexuals" are considered antisocial, and as a threat to social order. Ayatollah Khomeini (who died in 1989) alluded to this idea, asserting that "homosexuals" had to be exterminated because they were parasites and corruptors of the nation by spreading the "stain of wickedness." "Homosexuality" not only is seen as evil in itself, but provides a convenient label for stigmatizing bad people in general. This broad-gauge definition underpinned what happened in Iran, where "homosexuality" was often deployed as a generic label to be applied at will to persons adjudged criminals, whether rightly or wrongly. It did not matter much what they did, it was enough to know that they were antisocial and therefore evil. In this way, for example, political opponents could be eliminated without any legal justification. In times of crisis especially, when the need for security is strong, public morals tend to become more severe, and deviant behavior that was once ignored is repressed. Moreover, in a period of political, economic, and social instability, internal chaos will often be blamed on outsiders and foreigners.

But what occurred in Iran is certainly not typical of the attitude toward homosexual behavior in the whole spectrum of Islamic countries. Even in Iran it may be regarded as exceptional. The executions of "homosexuals" took place in an atmosphere of revolutionary turbulence, with strong reactionary and antiwestern accents that led to excesses and an overall atmosphere of terror. Yet the foundation of such extremes is probably present in all Islamic countries, and stems from a negative attitude toward passive homosexual behavior, coupled with a rejection of western morality and condemnation of public indecency. Therefore "homosexuality" is rejected. In practice homosexual behavior is usually treated tolerantly as long as it is discrete and harms no one. This tolerance was well characterized by the words of an unknown Arab poet: "As the boy looked at it, my thing moved, and he whispered: 'It is splendid! Do let me try its love making.' I answered 'Such an act is reprehended, in fact many people call it unlawful.' He said: 'Oh them; oh them! With me all things are lawful.' And I was too polite to disobey."
Lesbianism. Of female same-sex behavior [musahqa] almost nothing is known. Islamic law considers it sex outside of marriage and therefore as adultery, with all the consequences already described. Yet because no penetration takes place, punishment is theoretically limited to one hundred lashes. In practice lesbian behavior is regarded as relatively unimportant, because it usually takes place discreetly.

See also Abu Nuwas; Africa, North; Mujun; Rumi; Sa'di; Sufism; Turkey.


Maarten Schild

ITALY

Apart from classical antiquity, there are two eras in which Italy has a salient interest for the study of homosexual behavior. The first stretches from approximately 1250 to 1650 (the Renaissance, broadly interpreted); the second from World War II to the present.

Italy has a particular attraction for the historian because of its vast archives of material from the premodern period—archives which have not yet been much tapped. For the curious layperson, present-day Italy offers a lively homosexual subculture which sprang up after World War II, accelerating notably after the birth of the country's gay movement in 1971.

The Classical Heritage. Contrary to what has often been stated, there was no direct continuity on Italian soil between the homosexuality of Greco-Roman stamp and that which arose after the barbarian invasions. "Greek love" in Italy is in fact a later invention of northern European travelers of the nineteenth century, invented to lend dignity to the type of sex that they came to the country to enjoy.

In reality, at the time of the fall of the Roman empire there were recurrent foreign invasions. Over the centuries Italian soil was occupied by the most disparate peoples—Goths, Langobards (Lombards) and other Germanic tribes, Byzantines, Slavs, Arabs and Berbers, Normans, and Albanians. In addition it would be a mistake to discount the profound effects of the implantation of Christianity. All these factors could not help but disturb the characteristic features of the Greco-Roman world.

To cite an example of how complex the amalgam produced by the introduction of the customs of foreign peoples, one need only recall that the laws of the Lombards, a Germanic people, displaced Roman law in vast regions of Italy down to the thirteenth century. In fact the last remnants of Lombard law, confined to a few districts of southern Italy, disappeared only with the Napoleonic regime at the start of the nineteenth century. [See Law, Germanic.]

The Latin heritage was significant in the history of Italy (and not solely in that country) as an ideal image of a golden age which must be recaptured through a "revival." In the Middle Ages this aim took concrete form in the institution known as the Holy Roman Empire, and it was to have later avatars.

This theme is found in jurisprudence, having come about through the rediscovery and renewed study of Roman law (as concretized in the Corpus Juris Civilis of Justinian) conducted by the great Bolognese jurists of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. This rediscovery is responsible for the West's adoption of the penalty of burning at the stake for sodo-
mites, originally stipulated by the fourth-century Christian emperors of Rome. (The first such burning of which we have documentary evidence dates only from 1266.)

The literary revival, which was accomplished by the labors of philologists and the renewed circulation of surviving ancient texts, was a later task—that of the Renaissance proper.

The process of rediscovery, restoration, and recoloration of classical antiquity continued in Italy until the sixteenth century, constituting the backbone of the Renaissance, which was one of Italy's most important contributions to Western civilization. This revival, which in some circles assumed the guise of a real idolatry of the antique, influenced in one way or another the most varied realms of old Italy, from philosophy [as seen in the work of Marsilio Ficino], through language, the arts, and law, to religion itself.

One should not be surprised then if a substantial portion of the evidence on homosexuality in premodern Italy "speaks classically," in the sense that it allows one to see behind it a classical model that gave it inspiration. Of course the same phenomenon is to be seen to some degree in the other European countries.

Before the Renaissance. The first homosexual poem of Italy after the classical age is the song, "O admirable Veneris ydolum" ("Oh, splendid image of love") of the ninth century. It is in fact suffused with classical—even pagan—reminiscences. Evidently the author was a cleric, that is a member of the only social class that could engage in cultural pursuits before the arrival of the new lay-bourgeois culture after the year 1000.

From the religious sphere comes the first (condemnatory) treatise on homosexuality in Italy, the harsh Liber Goromthianus of ca. 1050 by St. Peter Damian (1007–1077), a violent invective against the sodomitical clergy, as well as the revealing Sermones subalpini, written in the vernacular at the end of the twelfth or the beginning of the thirteenth century.

Yet a real body of homoerotic poetry, such as that produced in France and the northern countries of Europe in the eleventh and twelfth centuries (see Medieval Latin Poetry), has not come to light.

One cannot ignore the appearance of laws against sodomy in the statute books of the Italian city states. At first mild, then ever more severe, they began about the middle of the twelfth century.

Only at the end of the twelfth century does Italy show a literary interest in the theme of homosexuality. The course of the thirteenth century is illuminated by a whole constellation of poetry of love and moralizing which directly confronts the subjects of same-sex affection and love, with such well known names from Italian literature as Brunetto Latini (ca. 1211–1294), who was placed by Dante among the sodomites in the Inferno], Rustico di Filippo (second half of the thirteenth century), and Guido Cavalcanti (1255–1300).

Special note must be taken of the circle of Perugia love poets of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries [major figures are Cecco Nucoli and Marino Ceccoli], as well as of the Siênese burlesque poets of the fourteenth century, who treat homosexual love with the greatest freedom of expression and naturalness—whether they are approving or condemning.

A special place belongs to the treatment of homosexuality by Dante Alighieri (1265–1321), the "father of the Italian language," in his Divine Comedy.

It should be noted that the whole period was deeply marked, as Michael Goodich has shown, by the ascendancy of the Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), and by the growth of a moralizing trend calling for the reform of customs among certain sectors of the bourgeoisie. The convergence of these two factors led toward the middle of the fourteenth century, to the enactment of severe laws against sodomy in most of the Italian city states.
The Coming of the Renaissance.
As a result of these developments Renaissance Italy confronted homosexuality with a much more hostile attitude than that which had prevailed several centuries before. The source of this hardening was not so much the Catholic church, which did indeed have a reinforcing role, as those urban strata that in a struggle that stretched over the centuries had pursued a policy of moral reform.

And yet, if in the fourteenth century homosexual love disappeared from love poetry, the figure of the sodomite lingered, often described in a light-hearted way, in vernacular short stories. The best known author is of course Giovanni Boccaccio (1313–1375), but alongside him are numerous short story writers and chroniclers—too many to be cited here—who were not averse to recounting in explicit fashion the diverting adventures of this or that sodomitical character. In some instances the classical model becomes dominant (for example Apuleius’ *Golden Ass* in Boccaccio), in others the pure anecdote prevails.

The fact is that it is just at the start of the fourteenth century that one can detect the first signs pointing to the existence of a sodomite subculture in the great mercantile cities of Italy, including Venice, Siena, Bologna, and Florence. It would be interesting to know to what degree the legislative hardening constituted simply a reaction to the perceived menace of a “deviant” underground which seemed to be proliferating.

Literary documentation and the trial records reveal how homosexual behavior enjoyed a certain margin of tolerance and protective silence among the citizens; paradoxically, silence was greater where legal sanctions were most severe, as in Venice, than where they were milder, as in Florence.

Nonetheless it is important not to commit the error of viewing this subculture as a kind of prefiguration or rough sketch of the gay “ghettos” of American cities of our own day. Fourteenth-century sodomites formed a subculture with certain recognizable features, but which was strongly marked by a type of relationship which was regarded as “normal” even by the heterosexual population of the day, though not necessarily by us: the adult–adolescent bond (pederasty). The denizens of this subculture, though accustomed to meeting one another, did not have sexual relations one with another, but rather with boys who came into their orbit from time to time (money usually served to facilitate consent). One must never lose sight of this fundamental characteristic when one speaks of the homosexual subculture of former times.

During the major phase of the Renaissance, with its characteristic showcasing of classical texts, Italian society entered into a period of enlightened tolerance of homosexual conduct. This tolerance, to which the so-called libertine current contributed, fostered a flowering of cultural expression in which homosexuality appeared in the forefront.

This efflorescence, noteworthy also in the field of the visual arts, began to lose strength with the coming of the Counterreformation, which imposed a return to a more moralistic climate, and above all an iron discipline over sexual themes.

The Counterreformation. In Italy the Catholic Counterreformation coincided with the inception of a period of decline that lasted until the nineteenth century. This decline was not merely economic, stemming in large measure from the shift of trade routes away from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic (to which Italy had no direct access), but also political.

In a changed European climate it was particularly disastrous that Italy saw the persistence of a pattern of many small states (some minuscule) which hindered the creation of any unified nation. The most determined opponent of such unification was the papacy, which until 1870
held a large-sized state that cut the penin-
sula in two at the center.

In this atmosphere of stasis the bourgois stratum became “feudal,” per-
mitting itself to be absorbed by the nobil-
ity and becoming a parasitic class that was
more concerned with preserving the status
quo than with keeping up with the times.

The Counterreformation set the
seal on these trends of ideological and
political conservatism. The treatment of
the scientist Galileo Galilei (1564–1642)
by the Holy Office is symptomatic of the
fate of Italian intellectuals during this
period. In this way Italian civilization
suffered a blow that could not be easily
remedied afterwards.

In accordance with the trends, the “enlightened” tolerance toward homo-
sexuality that was typical of the Renais-
sance gradually disappeared as the genera-
tion born before 1550 died off.

In Italian literature evidence is
found until about 1650, one example being
the book Alcibíaide fanciullo a scola, which
defended pederasty, but these manifesta-
tions became ever rarer and more isolated.
In the same period historical evidence on
homosexual behavior in Italy diminishes
to a trickle, while at the same time it
increases in countries like France and Eng-
land, which in a fairly short time became
as loquacious on homosexuality as Italy
had been up until that point. One must
add, however, that the historical period
that precedes the Risorgimento, the Ita-
lan national revival of the nineteenth
century, has not been sufficiently studied.
Recent scholarship shows that under the
conformity imposed by the Counterrefor-
mation there continued to flow, like under-
ground streams, currents of heterodox
thought, such as the libertine one that has
been cited.

This fact means that, in order to
unearth the indications of nonconformist
thought of this period, special attention
must be directed to the recovery of unpub-
lished manuscripts—samizdat, in effect—
created for internal circulation among
private circles of enlightened intellec-
tuals.

As regards the working class, the
persistence of a homosexual cultural pat-
tern that has been designated Mediterra-
nean made possible the de facto tolerance
of same-sex conduct, provided that it
conformed to a rigid and prescribed model
of behavior.

The Age of Enlightenment and
Positivism. A number of preliminary in-
quiries pursued by the present author have
shown that it is probable that in the seven-
teenth and eighteenth centuries there arose
the first prototypes of the insidious type of
“repressive tolerance” still practiced to-
day in Catholic countries. Even though in
the initial phases of the Counterreforma-
tion there were new outbreaks of persecu-
tion, with the passage of the decades one
notes an ever greater reluctance to impose
the death penalty for sodomy.

An underground debate, the
dimensions of which we are not now in a
position to determine, must have taken
place. Otherwise one cannot explain the
appearance in 1764 of Dei delitti e delle
penne (On Crimes and Punishments) by
Cesare Beccaria (1738–1794). A book that
captured the spirit of the times, which
influenced legislation throughout Europe,
and which called for the abolition of the
death penalty for sodomy—such a book
cannot have come out of a void.

Nonetheless the fanatical censor-
ship that was imposed during those centu-
ries, combined with a certain reluctance
by Italian historians to enter “obscure zones
of a special character,” has served to keep
us from learning much of homosexual life
of the epoch.

The only certainty is that in this
period the homosexual subculture took
shape and began to come out of hiding, as
shown by several studies completed by
scholars in the field. We still lack, how-
ever, a precise analysis of what happened
in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century
Italy, from what is now known it seems
that Italian conditions were not very dif-
different from those of other Catholic countries, such as France, which have been better studied.

Italy Today. Two main factors characterize Italian gay life today: its situation overlapping the two main paradigms of homosexual culture—the central and northern European type, which predominates in northern Italy, and the Mediterranean type, which rules the south—and its acceptance of a kind of “social pact,” typical of Latin and Catholic countries, between the homosexual community and the state.

The first factor means that homosexual lifestyles in Italy are not homogeneous. In the north the foreign observer, even though he does not fail to register the difference between Italian gay culture and his own, still recognizes the links with central and northern European gay life. Southern Italy, however, follows a completely different model, that of the above-mentioned “Mediterranean homosexuality.”

Situated astride the boundary of two different cultures, Italian homosexual life lacks homogeneity, embracing as it does lifestyles which are profoundly different and even contradictory.

The second characteristic element is the “social pact” which the political authorities have tacitly conceded the homosexual minority since the nineteenth century, when sodomy was de-criminalized thanks to the Napoleonic reforms. In exchange for the renunciation of homosexual militancy and advocacy of the right to be different, the state has agreed to respect the abrogation of all specifically antihomosexual laws.

This concession does not mean that homosexual conduct is exempt from stigma, but simply that the task of “social control” in the realm of sexual repression has been left to the Catholic church. Consequently, the state authorities need only intervene when the informal system of social control is not felt to be adequate. This occurred during the fascist period when scores of homosexuals were sent into exile on small islands for periods from some months to several years. Despite this policy, there is no known case of a homosexual deported as such to a concentration [extermination] camp or of anyone executed for his homosexuality.

These contradictory factors explain how it was possible that from 1800 to 1950 Italy was a “wonderland” for foreign gays, who saw in the country a paradise where everything was allowed (hence it was an obligatory stop for every aristocratic Anglo-Saxon gay tourist), while at the same time it remained a country in which homosexuals, with rare exceptions, were reluctant to seek affirmation of their own identity, or to proclaim it through fiction and essays.

For generations Italian gay people declined to speak up on a vital question, understanding that repression would be deployed only in response to an attempt to create an “alternative lifestyle” in competition with that of the heterosexual family. In exchange they have benefited from a climate in which, though homosexuality officially did not exist and it was forbidden to mention it even in condemnation, scandals were systematically hushed up, the authorities dispensed with any “witch hunts,” and the common people refused to make an issue of it. Italy has never had an Oscar Wilde scandal.

Moreover, the Mediterranean culture of homosexuality has long permitted a certain phase of homosexual experimentation to young heterosexuals in order to safeguard the virginity of nubile girls. Italian homosexuals took advantage of this situation—until the arrival of the “sexual revolution” which, by facilitating premarital sexual relations, has progressively reduced the viability of this erotic ploy.

Residues of this legacy of compromise persist even today in Italian politics—on the one hand in the considerable integration that the gay community has achieved with society in general [no Italian cities have gay ghettos, the ghetto being a
reaction to a society that leaves no other space to the minority than the ghetto itself, on the other, in the absence, thus far, of phenomena such as the antigay crusades of an Anita Bryant or a Jerry Falwell, or the witch hunts occasioned by hysteria over AIDS.

Also a product of this tradition are the lesser strength of the Italian gay movement in comparison with the Anglo-Saxon countries, as well as the reluctance of homosexual intellectuals to “come out.” There are no laws to defy, no clearly definable immediate objectives, so that the average Italian gay man can hardly grasp the need for an affirmation that, in this context, is more a political choice than a lifestyle choice. This last factor explains the high degree of politicization of the Italian gay movement, which often surprises foreign visitors.

This situation should not obscure the fact that the period after World War II has seen the appearance of a generation of intellectuals more or less willing to discuss homosexuality not only in the lives of others, but at times in their own. In recent years there has arisen a new generation with ideas influenced by the gay movement and more receptive to a “transgressive” vision of homosexuality.

Among the most important names of the first generation are the novelists Giovanni Comisso, Umberto Saba, Carlo Cocchioli, and Alberto Arbasino; the poet-novelists Piero Santi, Dario Bellezza, Elio Pecora, Giampiero Bona; the poets Sandro Penna, Nico Naldini, Mario Stefani; the directors Luchino Visconti and Franco Zeffirelli; the playwrights Giuseppe Patroni Griffi and Giovanni Testori [also a poet]; the painters Filippo De Pisis, Aligi Sassu, Ottone Rosai, Mario Schifano, and Renzo Vespignani; and the composer Sylvano Bussotti. To these must be added the complex personality of the poet, novelist, playwright, and filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini. Other creative figures whose sexual orientation is known are omitted because their work does not reflect any commitment to homosexuality.

Among the most important personalities of the new generation who can be defined without any hesitation as gay (apart from a few who claim the status of bisexuals) are Aldo Busi [unquestionably one of the most important living Italian writers], Piervittorio Tondelli, Dario Trento, Corrado Levi, Riccardo Reim, Giancarlo Rossi, Stefano Moretti, Gino Scartaghiande, Ciro Cascina, and the director Marco Mattolini.

In the last few years theatre, film, music, and the entertainment world in general have experienced a flowering of interesting talent that is openly gay.

The new climate of intellectual openness means that it is now possible to speak of the homosexuality of major figures of the Italian litterature of the past, such as Carlo Emilio Gadda, an innovative Roman writer, and Aldo Palazzeschi, not to mention the nineteenth century patriot Luigi Settembrini and even the great Giaccomo Leopardi [1798–1837].

Today's Italian gay scene is notable particularly in the great industrial cities of the north; tourism has also stimulated the appearance of a leather scene in Florence. The south and Rome see, by contrast, the prevalence of a more “Mediterranean” mode: cruising takes place mainly outdoors so that many cities lack locales, such as bars and bathhouses, that are directed at a gay clientele. As a whole the Italians—except for those in Milan and Turin—are still little accustomed to bathhouses as places of gay encounter.

The Italian gay movement dates only from 1971, but it grew rapidly. Today it is organized on a national scale in the Arci-gay confederation, with its seat in Bologna, where there is a gay center [Il Cassero] and an archive-library. In 1988 there were twenty-two groups affiliated with Arci-gay, which also issues publications.
Turin and Milan boast their own gay archives linked to centers of gay initiative: one of these, the Fondazione Sandro Penna in Turin, publishes a high-quality annual of gay culture, *Sodoma*. There is also a gay Catholic movement, active only in the north.

Closely related to the gay movement is the informative Milanese monthly *Babilonia*, the only non-pornographic gay magazine in Italy. *Babilonia* publishes an annual gay guide in pocket-book format, bilingual in Italian and English and known as *Italia Gay*.


_Giovanni Dall’Orto_