LABELING

In social practice labeling is the habit of categorizing individuals with a descriptive epithet, generally negative, as "thief" or "shrew." The relevance of this concept to homosexuality stems from the argument that publicly labeling someone as a delinquent can result in the person's becoming the very thing he is at the outset perhaps fortuitously described as being. Naming has a powerful effect on the impressionable minds of young people—so much one can readily acknowledge. But the question can be pressed further: is the acquisition of a homosexual identity conditional upon being labeled queer (or whatever the abusive term is in the local idiom), or can it develop independently even before the individual is aware of the label that is affixed to his behavior? The internalization of a label that is repeatedly attached to an individual by one's peers certainly occurs, but there are other cases in which a future homosexual becomes aware of his orientation before he has learned that there are such people as "homosexuals." He may even think of himself as unique in the whole world.

When the first writings on sexual inversion began to appear in the 1880s, their authors received letters from subjects who had reached middle age believing until then that their sexual orientation was shared by no one else, so effective had been the taboo on public discussion or even oblique mention of the subject of sexual activity between members of the same sex.

Sociological studies have shown how intimately men or boys can be involved in a specific homosexual subculture (to be sure, one with little or no political consciousness) without considering themselves in the category of "queers." The preponderance of married men in Laud Humphreys' study of sexual contacts in toilets, Tearoom Trade (Chicago, 1970), and celebrated cases in which highly conservative public figures have been compromised, bear witness to this split between objective behavior and the subject's self-concept. Moreover, "homosexual" is an ambiguous term: it can be applied to a wide range of individuals, including ones who have had but a single overt same-sex experience, or limited to those who have never had heterosexual experiences or even feelings. Even "bisexual" may be disavowed as a label by individuals who have had more than incidental experience with both sexes, but nonetheless perceive their "identity" as heterosexual or homosexual.

Homosexuality has been studied in anthropology and sociology as an ascribed status which in turn provides a complex of culturally prescribed roles and behavior which individuals are expected to learn and perform. Because homosexual roles and behaviors are conceived as inappropriate to the individual's genital sex, they have been theoretically defined as deviant. Allison Davis stated in 1941: "Sex-typing of behavior and privileges is even more rigid and lasting in our society than is age-typing. Indeed, sexual status and color-caste status are the only life-long forms of rank. . . . Whereas sexual mobility is somewhat less rare today than formerly, sex-inappropriate behavior, social or physical, is still one of the most severely punished infractions of our social code." In a society that judges such behavior immoral, individuals labeled homosexual are fre-
LABELING

quently denied the social, economic, and legal rights of so-called normal human beings; they may be the objects of scorn, ridicule, aversion, and fear, and suffer denial of employment or interrogation and harassment by the police.

Labeling can be triggered by an individual who is observed to behave in a manner deviating from the behaviors held in common by members of the group to which he belongs. There are differences between the sexes in this regard: unlike stereotypically effeminate appearance and gestures in boys (sissihood), “masculine” appearance in girls (tomboyishness) is less likely to be interpreted as predictive of homosexuality. But when a youngster is so labeled, then even the slightest deviation from the norm can be noticed and magnified in the image that others hold of him. Another class of evidence is overt sexual propositions, which may consist of a series of verbal or physical cues that are deemed progressively inappropriate. Retrospective reinterpretation of the deviant behavior then reinforces the label as every departure from the norm is fitted into a stereotype.

Conversely, the individual who perceives himself as homosexual may believe that he must act out all the features of the stereotype connected with the label, no matter how repellent or alien they may have been to him in the past. Such behavior is most common among working-class homosexuals who live in a milieu where sex roles are rigidly prescribed, so that the individual who has become accustomed to behaving sexually “like a woman” must, so he feels, act in other ways like a caricature of the female. This provokes the question asked by the teenager who is just “coming out”: “Do I have to be like that?” with the implication that he perceives the stereotype as alien, even if he accepts the sexual orientation as consonant with the rest of his inner self. The internalization of the identity implied by the label is sometimes designated as “secondary deviance,” in contrast with the “primary deviance” which is the overt activity that initially motivated the label.


Warren Johansson

LAMBDA

In the early 1970s, in the wake of the Stonewall Rebellion, New York City’s Gay Activists Alliance selected the Greek letter lambda, which member Tom Doerr suggested from its scientific use to designate “kinetic potential,” as its emblem. (Curiously, in some ancient Greek graffiti the capital lambda appears with the meaning “fellate,” representing the first letter of either lambazein or laikazein.) Because of its militant associations, the lambda symbol has spread throughout the world. It sometimes appears in the form of an amulet hung round the neck as a subtle sign of recognition which can “pass” among unknowing heterosexuals as a mere ornament. Such emblems may reflect a tendency among homosexuals toward “tribalization” as a distinct segment of society, one conceived as a quasi-ethnic group.

LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

The history of the study of language, which in the Western tradition goes back to the ancient Greeks, has two main phases: the prescriptive era, when most linguists were in alliance with schoolmasters in seeking norms of correctness, and the descriptive era, which began with the discoveries of the neo-grammian school in the early nineteenth century in Germany. Taken as a whole, neither tradition has had much to say about the vocabulary and semantics of sex and their development. Three branches of linguistics have however made some contribution. Etymology, the science of the origin of words,
can cast light on changing ideas about sexuality. Unfortunately one must beware of many false and misleading etymologies, such as the absurd claim that the word faggot in the meaning "homosexual" derives from the burning of sodomites at the stake. Then the study of slang, where sex vies with intoxication for the title of the most productive realm, has also produced considerable material. Finally, the recent development of sociolinguistics offers some material on the pragmatics of gay male and lesbian social encounters.

Words and Concepts over the Centuries. Study of the origins of words pertaining to sexuality show that many—probably most—expressions in current use have pedigrees stretching back over centuries and even millennia. Such backgrounds are characteristic not only of "scientific" words, such as deviation and orientation, but also of such slang or street words as chicken or rocks. Folklorists have shown that notions in circulation, say, in the Ozarks in the first half of this century have ultimate origins in opinions expressed by Greek thinkers seventy or more generations before. For this reason, and also because of scholarly habit, our language preserves a number of terms going back to the ancient Greeks, the oldest significant source. Interestingly, however, the Greeks had no single term encompassing same-sex conduct as a whole, only more specialized terms for what we would regard as aspects of homosexuality. The absence of the idea derived from the fact that the Greeks concentrated on one particular form of male same-sex behavior, pederasty; also, their semantic grid classified sexual activity from standpoints that did not admit a high level of generalization. Carefully employed, then, the study of words can reveal not only ideas that were current but also ideas that were absent.

In addition to lack of development of words and concepts, there is also active deletion as a result of taboo. From earliest recorded history we have evidence that certain names were not to be uttered because of the dangers that surrounded them. With regard to homosexuality this factor has entered in through the Judeo-Christian proscription of sodomy. Thus we encounter such expressions as "the nameless sin," "the Cities of the Plain" (for Sodom and Gomorrah), "the crime against nature," "gross indecency," and so forth. There is also a common garden variety of deletion, as when a suburbanite will ask another: "Is he that way?" or "Is she one of them?" Such evasive verbal ploys belong to the realm of euphemism, which in addition to neutral terms can resort to foreign words because their impact is less harsh than that of the native ones learned in childhood.

Against this background the open use of hostile street language gains, by contrast, a particular aggressive edge. Thus for one teenager to call another queer or faggot may be particularly damaging to the self image of the one so styled. This phenomenon has been studied by social scientists under the name of labeling—though the role such incidents are likely to play in the emerging self-concept of the young gay or lesbian person remains problematic.

Not to be neglected are the contributions of generations of homosexuals themselves. While the distinction of the wry gay wit known as camp has been generally recognized, the writings of homosexual theorists—particularly in Germany—have played a major role in forming the learned vocabulary. Down to 1897 the experts who wrote on homosexuality felt obliged to use such expressions as "this disgrace to human nature" or "these dark crimes," but after the movement had devised its own terminology a neutral phraseology gradually became standard. More difficult to investigate are nondenotative levels—particular arrangements of ordinary words and such paraverbal aspects as lilt and pitch, not to mention the gestures that accompany particular expressions. In the past these gestures and intonations were often the obligatory passport to acceptance in some circles and
situations; their absence was thought to betray the undercover agent or would-be robber or blackmailer. What is ultimately needed is a semiotics of gay and lesbian communication, which would embrace both verbal and nonverbal elements.

**Sources of Words.** At one time a strict separation was made between “scientific” terms, on the one hand, and slang or taboo expressions, on the other. As a rule, the latter have flourished among the folk as emotion-laden epithets, while the former were ostensibly coined to foster a more dispassionate and “objective” tone of discussion. Today these boundaries are eroding, and one can use gay or dyke in respectable discourse, while some learned terms, such as androgyny and sadomasochism, are fairly widely understood in the vernacular. Also, terms such as “deviation,” originally introduced because of their strict neutrality, filtered down into the technical language of the law, so that some jurisdictions adopted statutes penalizing “deviant sexual conduct.” Yet a problem persists with terms coming from the slang vocabulary: they are sometimes confusingly polysemous, as hustler (male prostitute or pool-hall pro?) and straight (heterosexual or drug free?).

The sources of our words may be classified as follows: (1) classical (from Greece and Rome: fellatio, ganymede, hierodule, tribade); (2) theological (buggery, the unnatural, the unnamable vice); (3) medical (constitutional homosexuality, inversion, masochism); (4) literary euphemism (posterior, maleness, titillation); (5) slang (butch, cornholing, nelly). A possible sixth category is the law, yet study of legal usage shows that its terms, in this realm at least, have generally been borrowed above all from theology (sodomy, crime against nature). Some coinages come from a gray area or interface between these main spheres, notably homosexual, which was invented by Károly Mária Kertbeny, a closeted homophile apologist, and then taken up by medical and scientific writers, some of them too, of course, homosexual.

On occasion the ultimate field of origin is surprisingly remote, e.g., bisexuality (from botany) and orientation (from church architecture).

Some scholars have been interested in an ambitious project to correlate the strata of word use with successive stages of conceptualization. This endeavor is usually regarded as part of the sociology of knowledge. In the case of words pertaining to sexuality, particular care is needed so as not to make this parallel too mechanical. Thus the meaning of a single word sodomy has varied considerably over the centuries; a single bottle has held various contents, so to speak. Conversely, when the term (sexual) inversion was introduced in 1878, it was made to contain various older ingredients. The invention of new words does not necessarily signal the appearance of new meanings.

**Sociolinguistics.** Assisted by new techniques, including electronic monitoring and analysis, the emerging subdiscipline of sociolinguistics has begun to study oral language usage in actual encounter situations. For example, in gay cruising the classic opening gambits are the pro forma questions, “Do you have the time?” or “Do you have a match?” The sociolinguist studies the context of such exchanges and their characteristic patterns. Another situation is the use of coded language to reveal one’s homosexuality to another person thought to be gay. This procedure may be fairly subtle, as in the use of ordinary words in an ambiguous context or reference to “in” places and events. Then there is a more flagrant manifestation, formerly termed “dropping pins,” in which the speaker abandons all caution and “camps up a storm.”

A subject of continuing interest is the difference between men’s and women’s use of language, as seen, for example, in intonation. Study has found that women are more likely to end a sentence with a rising inflection, as if it were a question. More generally, the pitch of women’s speech in our culture has a broader
range than the more monotonic texture of the macho male—which is “straight” with regard to pitch. Like women’s speech, that of gay men has more range or animation. But there is also an aggressive, “bitchy” form of gay male intonation that has no precise equivalent among women. This intonation may sometimes be heard when a gay man tells a joke; the same joke may take on a different coloration owing to a different tonic rendition on the part of the speaker. Older gay men will remember that “tunes” which were once common have disappeared to be replaced by others. In these realms clearly much more study is needed.


Wayne R. Dynes

LATENT HOMOSEXUALITY

Psychiatric writings of the 1940s and 1950s commonly distinguished between overt and latent homosexuality. The latter in turn has two forms: in the first, conscious homosexual desires are present but are controlled by the subject; and in the second, homosexual drives are unconscious. The popularity of the notion stems from two themes of Sigmund Freud. In human psychosexual development, Freud held, the latency period begins at the time of the decline of infantile sexuality in the fifth or sixth year and lasts until the onset of puberty. During this phase sexual development essentially marks time, and does not undergo any fundamental reorganization, albeit the capacity for repression becomes marked. Although Freud used the term in a nonpathological sense, most analysts, having had medical training, would recall the older definition of “latent period” among physicians: the period of the incubation of a disease. The other Freudian theme was the idea of universal bisexuality. In this perspective all human beings have a capacity to experience same-sex attraction, but for most of them this option is not exercised during adulthood.

A process of abstraction from these two sources yields two distinct models of latent homosexuality: as dormant, and as potential. In the first model (dormant), latent homosexuals are thought of as a discrete body of individuals whose same-sex dimension is pre-overt. They are set off from the rest of the population in that they are “on track” to becoming practicing homosexuals—though this goal may not be achieved in every instance. In the second model (potential), a much larger segment of the population is involved—possibly everyone, if the hypothesis of universal bisexuality is accepted. The first model is selective, and assuming adequate methods of diagnosis—constituting a kind of “early warning system”—it would permit the psychiatrist to predict the likelihood of an individual’s becoming an overt homosexual. The second model has no diagnostic or predictive value, being merely “philosophical.” The difference seems clear, yet rarely were the two models distinguished in psychiatric literature and practice. Moreover, as has been indicated, hovering in the background was the assumption that latent conditions are pathological. Hence repetition of the phrase helped to reinforce the prejudice that homosexuality was a disease. Finally, since latent homosexuality could be present in the unconscious, some individuals began to worry that, though they felt no identifiable symptoms, somehow their homosexuality was simply waiting to burst into full flower. Thus the spread of the notion helped to foster homosexual panic, and numbers of individuals—sometimes labeled “pseudohomosexuals”—sought clinical help for
a problem which was not theirs. To be sure, their panic was real, and this distress the clinician sought to treat.

Because of these complications, the idea of latent homosexuality has come to be generally regarded as heuristically unsound, and the expression has begun to disappear from both psychiatric and lay discourse.


Wayne R. Dynes

LATIN AMERICA

The conquests of the Spanish and the Portuguese in the New World laid the basis for colonial and post-colonial societies that show a number of common features. It is customary to associate with them the French-speaking republic of Haiti, but this country is so distinct that it will not be considered here.

The Basic Underlying Sexual Ideology. Today the former Iberian colonies in the New World provide the prototype of the gender-defined organization of homosexuality. Across the whole culture area, ideal norms distinguish masculine insertors [activos] not considered homosexuales from feminine insertees [pasivos] who are. The typological system is very simple, but in messy reality behavior and identity are more complex. Over time (in a "sexual career") or with different partners, a man's behavioral repertoire may diverge from the clearcut dichotomy. The imaginary undifferentiated phallic supremacy of the hombre supposedly common to Iberian and former Iberian colonies in the New World is overly neat. Certainly there are individuals who impersonate these ideal types [essences], but the sexually omnivorous hombre who has no preferences in "object choice"—the man who "fucks anything that moves"—is more a fantasy of the maricón, the stereotypical homosexual who aspires to his attentions, than a plausible empirical observation. Projection of this fantasy is undoubtedly flattering to the other who may be insecure about his masculinity and not likely to contradict flattering maricón claims about how masculine he is.

The pretence is carefully maintained by the activo's endless stream of sexual remarks which proclaim an insatiable sexual appetite but may not signify any actual sexual expectations or even interest in the targets of the remarks. Latin American men must show that they are interested in phallic activity—especially if they do not have regular sexual opportunities—by talking about what they would like to do to anyimaginably penetrable object. Particularly in cities, there are not many ways to demonstrate "traditional" masculinity: only a few have physically demanding jobs.

The dearth of women who are available for actual sex and the general lack of privacy for sex with willing partners—along with cultural pressure on men to have sex regularly and on women to maintain the honor of their fathers, brothers, or husbands by resisting sexual involvement with anyone except a husband—lead to flamboyant verbal sexual posturing. Foreign observers may mistakenly interpret such talk as indicating that Latino men are hypersexual. It is easy to play the role of a lobo listo (literally, "ready wolf") when few demands are likely to be made: the Latino male is rarely if ever going to be pressed to demonstrate that he is ready.

Some observers have claimed that a fear of enjoying being anally penetrated is a salient concern for Latino males. The danger (not of being penetrated, but of coming to desire it) has been reported to be part of Islamic sexual ideology and may have a circum-Mediterranean diffusion carried to the New World by Iberian conquerors. Still, the feared anal penetration does not turn everyone who has experienced it into a maricón, and masculine deportment and self-conception are not necessarily compromised or jettisoned.
even by insertee homosexual activity, especially with aliens.

Within the culture, among natives, sexual receptivity does not necessarily lead to enacting a maricón role or building a gay identity. Even when obtainable, the luxury of privacy is not as safe with peers as with foreigners. Thus, to say that it does not matter what a Latino male does as long as no one finds out does not say much, because of the necessary caveat “hardly ever does no one find out.” Some things remain hidden (escondido), but guarantees of eternal silence are dubious. Homosexuality can be compartmentalized—in space or time. According to Goode (1960), compartmentalization of roles is a common response to role strain, not just to managing masculine self-presentation while engaged in homosexual behavior in Latin America. In Latin America, as in Anglo North America, homosexual involvement of some persons is an open secret, homosexual involvement of others is genuinely escondido. Despite the reticence about discussing homosexuality in regards to one’s self or peers or family, there is essentializing pressure to tie up sex and gender, even though the nuances of technical distinctions of sex, sexuality, gender (and possible variations of each) can be illustrated. There are certainly masculine-appearing males who are insertees, and effeminate-appearing males who are exclusively insertors, but the clear, simple masculine/feminine division is paramount in Latino views of gender and sex. Behavioral variance is irrelevant to this organizing principle. The actual flux and uncertainty of sexual expression is ignored “by the culture,” or, rather, by Latino males who do not want to know, talk about, or think that masculine appearances do not necessarily validate untainted masculine essence. Behavioral variance corrodes certainty in the ideal norms, but these ideal norms are carried in many media, including primary socialization. Credence in and approval of the machismo complex channel behavior to conformity. How and what sexual norms and behaviors mean for natives is only beginning to be explored. Major obstacles exist in Latin America to community-formation and public self-identification as both masculine and homosexual. These will be surveyed in the remainder of this article.

Obstacles to an Autonomous Gay Culture. The Latin American family retains economic functions. The family as a production unit is particularly significant in Mesoamerica—less so in the “southern cone” nations of Argentina and Chile. Even urban families that are not production units provide social security in countries far from being welfare states. In societies experienced by most as capricious and heartless, the family provides more than merely psychological shelter. If one is struck down by illness or injury and has no family to support him or her, s/he will be reduced to begging in the streets. Examples of this horrific danger are readily visible. Latin Americans cannot, and had better not, take for granted minimum security being supplied against disability, as citizens of welfare states can. The insurance against disability offered by the family is an economic system, not any perverse, pathological passivity deriving from an obsession with fertility on the part of individuals, the culture, or the Roman Catholic Church. “Familial orientation” as well as high Mesoamerican fertility can better be explained by examining the family as an economic unit than by looking to individual-level values.

Because revelation of homosexuality is a basis for expulsion from the home and the economic as well as psychological security provided by the family, homosexually active Latin Americans cultivate family relations to a greater extent than do those who can take it for granted. In some cases, they exercise the right of males who have reached sexual maturity to come and go from home at will less than do their brothers. Moreover, behavior must be particularly circumspect in the presence
of one's siblings, and particularly on the subject of sex. Reticence is essential if many people live in a small space juntos pero no revueltos (together, but not scrambled).

Though homosexually active Mesoamericans who do not build their own families live at home longer than those who start families of their own, and also show somewhat greater concern with maintaining the support of relatives, these relations often involve no intimacy. The popular psychoanalytic obsession with mothers, projected onto the etiology of homosexuality, is useless in explaining homosexuality in Mesoamerica, because the veneration of martyr [Madonna/saintly] mothers is ubiquitous, while homosexuality is not. Regardless of sexual orientation, persons continue to live at home, not just “mother-fixated” homosexual men. Taking prospective sexual partners to where one lives is rarely possible in Mesoamerica. For the affluent, there are visits to resorts, repair to hotels in their own city, automobiles, and trysting apartments (puterías). For those who are not affluent, there is the dark. There are also public baths, varying in how predominantly they are patronized by those in search of homosexual encounters. As elsewhere in the world, secure privacy for lovemaking is a luxury. The pattern of residence pushes pre- and extramarital intercourse (heterosexual as well as homosexual) into the streets. This fact does not prevent quick sexual encounters (fichas), but is a major obstacle to ongoing relationships. Those who wish "to walk in the realm of love" (amblar en el plan del amor) do not have the easy path—moving in together—open to norteamERICANos. Even families which accept a relationship within the family circle (treating the amante as another son) do not want outsiders to know that they have produced and are harboring un raro (a queer one). In gratitude for this [infrequently granted] minimum of acceptance, few couples are willing to demand more, such as the chance to be alone together sometimes. Some couples do manage to carry on long-term relationships without any place in which they can be together in private, but this is quite a difficult achievement.

Collective Consciousness. Gay consciousness is no more automatic a product of homosexual behavior than class consciousness is of “objective class position” or ethnic consciousness of genealogy. In a population of persons with such a characteristic, some will not consider themselves defined in any way by it, and others will deny the characteristic altogether. The existence and importance of a characteristic must be realized if there is to be a consciousness of kind: characteristics are only potential bases.

In Anglo-America such a realization was facilitated by the congregation into “gay ghettos” after World War II. Such residential concentration of homosexually-inclined men is precluded where the unmarried indefinitely continue to live at home. The specific pattern of historical development of gay communities in Anglo-America need not be assumed to constitute the only possible route to rejection of pariah status. On the other hand, provision of sex will not in itself produce a sense of peoplehood. Cruising areas and social networks of homosexually-inclined men exist and have existed with varying degrees of visibility in cities everywhere, while a sense of belonging to a community of those whose identity is based on shared sexual preferences has not. Something more than sexual acts in “the city of night” is needed to provide a conception of a shared fate.

A Mesoamerican cannot learn about the common experiences of those with homosexual desires from print media, any more than he can discuss them with those with whom he lives. There is de facto censorship of anything remotely interpretable as legitimating homosexuality. Police and judges exercise wide discretion in interpreting what is immoral and declaring publications as apologías de un
vicio (apologies for vice). Military dictatorships in particular find publications advocating unconventional behavior threatening—more threatening than homosexual behavior which may be tolerated as long as gender conventions are maintained.

Nonetheless, association with like others is also limited. For fear of having their reputation "burned" (quemada) and their security thereby endangered, many persons involved in homosexual behavior avoid being seen with or being acknowledged by males who might be judged effeminate, and also avoid places where homosexuals are known to congregate. The same pattern existed among homosexual Anglo-Americans, although there it was fear of losing jobs more than Mesoamericans' fear of the family's learning of stigmatizing association. The lack of positive literature and the fear of guilt-by-association were obstacles overcome by gay liberation movements in Anglo-America, so there is evidence that such obstacles are surmountable. Indeed, the demonstration that change is possible is an advantage gay movements in their early development today have. In post-war North America, without any known historical precedent, the possibility of change was difficult to conceive. On the other hand, in a welfare state in which there was no economic necessity to stay with one's family, a critical mass developed in a visible territory. The growth and metamorphosis of recreational facilities within an area of increasing residential concentration of homosexuals facilitated the sense of shared experience that led gay North Americans to reject negative attitudes toward homosexuality and to demand full acceptance. Whether there are functional alternatives to residential concentration is at this point open to question. Although a sense of community is easier to instill if there is a visible territory, distinct gay facilities and services might develop without a residential concentration. Continued residence with families scattered throughout cities is a considerable obstacle to the formation of gay consciousness, culture and community as these have developed in Anglo North America. Only time will tell if there are other routes to similar—or to other—developments.


Stephen O. Murray

LAUTRÉAMONT, COMTE DE (PSEUDONYM OF ISIDORE DUCASSE; 1846–1870)

French writer, author of Les chants de Maldoror (1868), a book-length poem in prose. It is a fantasy and meditation in which the title character addresses the reader, sometimes reporting things said to him or switching to the third person. Maldoror's narration is a unique revel in the horrible and macabre, as he delights in sadism and gloats over human wickedness, weakness, and cruelty. The disgusting, repulsive, and painful are stressed. The work contains murder, torture of children and animals, and bestiality (intercourse with a female shark, his "first love"). God, whom Maldoror sees as an inferior, sits on a throne of excrement and gold and eats men. The poem is seemingly a study in hatred and self-loathing, but it is actually a work of self-affirmation and even innocence, and Maldoror is a powerful example of a Romantic hero. Though he despises himself and is disgusted by the universe, Maldoror at least recognizes and admits what he and it are, and this is his claim to moral stature. It is a statement that one is human and that one accepts
that. He faces death and annihilation as a pagan, without sorrow or fear.

The homosexual theme of the book is central. Male homosexuality is presented positively, and women are rejected. Homosexuals are “crystallizations of a superior moral beauty,” whose “prostitution to any chance comer exercises the logic of the deepest thinkers.” What tenderness and compassion is found in the work is directed toward beautiful, angelic boys, although Maldoror tortures and kills them. Compared with the violence, sodomy is made to seem positively benign. Maldoror wishes the universe were an “immense celestial anus,” through which, with his penis, he would “discover the subterranean spot where truth lies slumbering.”

The relationship between the narrator Maldoror and the author Lautréamont is of course ambiguous. The reader cannot help but speculate about the author’s personality, but little biographical information is available, which adds to the work’s allure. Born in Uruguay of French parents, Ducasse attended school in France, and died in obscurity at the age of 24. His only other work is a less interesting Poesies (1870).


Daniel Eisenberg

LAW (MAJOR TRADITIONS IN THE WEST)

Those who reject homosexual behavior as abhorrent often suppose that legal prohibitions against it are universal—the product of some instinctive human rejection of the “unnatural” or “abominable.” Examination of the historical and cross-cultural evidence discloses no such universal prohibition. Even the Mediterranean–Northwest European traditions discussed here have no consistent uniformity of condemnation. Yet some patterns emerge: the criminal statutes of late medieval Europe and their successors stem from a single source—the Biblical prohibitions of the Mosaic Law.

The Ancient Near East. The law codes of the ancient Near East took notice of homosexuality only when incest or the use of force was involved, or when a male individual was falsely accused of taking the passive role in homosexual relations (slander). This is all that the Hittite, Middle Assyrian, and early Israelite legal texts have to say on the subject. However, a quite old statute forbade the male Israelite to be a kādēš, a hierodule in the service of the Ishtar-Tammuz cult, and for that reason the kādēšim mentioned in the books of Kings of the Old Testament are foreigners who “were in the land” until expelled by the reforming monarchs who favored the religion of Jahweh.

The laws of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 are the first in the ancient world to formulate, albeit awkwardly, a global prohibition of homosexual acts between males, though not between females. These laws were not part of the original Holiness Code, but belong to a novella of the Persian period, in any case no later than 458 b.c. It is likely that they were influenced by a similar prohibition of male homosexuality in the Zoroastrian religion of the Persian Empire, under whose domination the
Jewish community lived for more than two centuries. But by the time the conquests of Alexander the Great initiated the Hellenistic period of Jewish history, the prohibition had become a distinctive feature of Judaic sexual morality, and from this source it passed into the other Abrahamic religions, Christianity and Islam, though with different consequences in each. Significantly, none of the sacred texts of these three religions—the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Koran—makes any mention of lesbianism, which was invisible to their ethical consciousness.

Classical Antiquity. The Athenian law punished only the male citizen who prostituted himself to another male, as prostitution was a calling only of slaves and aliens—not of full-fledged citizens. This law formed the background of Aeschines’ accusations against Timarchus, which have been misread as a global condemnation of pederasty in Athenian society. What ancient Mediterranean culture did maintain was a sharp dichotomy between the active and passive roles in homosexual (and even heterosexual) relations; for an adult male to take the passive role in sexual union with another man degraded and dishonored him in the eyes of society. Contrariwise, the woman who proved too aggressive in heterosexual relations was equally stigmatized in that culture. This mentality created the background for Paul’s strictures in Romans 1:25–27: the women who “changed the order of nature” were the “daughters of men” who are accused of seducing the “sons of the gods” in Genesis 6:1–4. The men who “burned in their lust toward one another” are the Sodomites of Genesis 19 who are reproached for passive homosexuality. As an early commentator remarked, “what their worst enemies would have liked to do to them, they did to themselves.”

Under the Roman republic, the Lex Scatinia or Scantinia from the third century B.C. seems to have directed against the use of force or authority to compel a free man to submit to what was in Roman eyes a degrading act; its full import and application remain obscure. Jewish apologists boasted that in the Mediterranean world at the beginning of the Roman empire, their own people alone remained untainted by the vice of pederasty which all other nations practiced. In fact, the defeat of the Jews in the war against Rome which ended with the destruction of the Second Temple (A.D. 66–70) was felt by them to be a particular humiliation because the Romans engaged in pederasty.

It was with the dynasty of Constantine the Great (305–337) that the first statutes penalizing male homosexuality enter the Roman law codes. Victorious Christianity had ratified the code of sexual morality embodied in Leviticus 18 and made it part of its own constitution. Even so, the first legal texts are couched in the language of Roman virtue and of condemnation of men who “have changed their sex” rather than that of the Latin renderings of the Old Testament. It is with the Byzantine Emperor Justinian (527–565) that allusions to the destruction of Sodom enter the logic of Novellae 77 and 141, which prohibit the crime that had caused “whole cities to be destroyed together with their inhabitants.” Since the Corpus Juris Civilis became the foundation of legal thinking in Western Europe, these texts were the motivation for the criminalization of sodomy through later centuries.

The Middle Ages. With the collapse of the Roman Empire, its codes were replaced by barbarian legal traditions that know little of homosexual behavior as a crime. It was in Canon Law, therefore, that the religious condemnation of homosexual expression was perpetuated and made a part of popular morality, although centuries of indoctrination were needed to instill the belief in the mass mind that sodomy was a “crime against nature” and the sodomite a criminal on a par with heretics and witches.

The full force of the church’s teaching arrived only in the thirteenth
century, when the scholastic theologians Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas taught that sodomy was a crime against the order of nature because it denied the procreative function of sexuality, and held it second only to murder in gravity. The close of that century saw not merely legal enactments prescribing the death penalty, but also records of capital punishment. Although executions were never numerous, they served to impress upon the popular mind the horror of "unnatural" sexual conduct. The defamation of sodomy also offered a convenient alibi to the church whenever any misfortune struck: since there was always a reservoir of unpunished sexual immorality within the community, divine wrath at these unexpiated sins became the explanation, and the "sodomite" the scapegoat upon whose head all the ills of society could be blamed. From the end of the thirteenth century until the close of the eighteenth the homosexual was everywhere in Western Europe a criminal and an outcast who had to hide his sexual activity and identity from a vindictive Christian society.

Modernity and the Foundations of Reform. With the Enlightenment the legal thinkers of Western Europe began the secularization of the criminal law. Beccaria, Voltaire, and their followers, arguing that the crime of sodomy belonged to canon and not to civil law, convinced the educated public that offenses against religion and morality were matters for confession and expiation rather than concerns of the state. It was against the background of these beliefs that the penal code adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Revolutionary France in 1791 for the first time in modern history omitted the crime of sodomy from the list of punishable offenses, and the Code Napoléon of 1810 retained this innovation. Following the French example, a large number of countries, mainly Roman Catholic ones, reformed their own penal codes in the course of the nineteenth century. In other legal systems, however, the sole change was to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment or some other punishment that fell just short of it.

Most significant, however, was the change in the motivation of the laws. While medieval legislators had only to refer to the Bible as the inspired word of God, modern lawmakers have had to rationalize their condemnation with the pseudo-utilitarian claim that homosexual acts "undermine the moral fibre of the nation" or would reduce the birth rate so drastically as to raise the spectre of race suicide, or with some quasi-democratic allusion to the "moral feelings of the people" that are purportedly offended by homosexual behavior. What reveals the alleged motives as rationalizations is the simple fact that wholly different arguments are cited in official or semi-official commentaries on the same law. This has been true particularly in the authoritarian states of the twentieth century that restored the earlier laws (the Soviet Union) or even made the existing ones more punitive (Nazi Germany). By contrast the American court decisions that allude to the book of Leviticus as the starting point of the legal tradition have an almost naive and old-fashioned ring. The cumulative effect of the sundry changes in the law down to the 1950s and later resulted in a situation where—in some jurisdictions—consensual sodomy carried more severe penalties than armed robbery, theft of funds from a charitable institution, or beating or neglecting a small child.

Phases of Reform. The modern sexual reform movement began at the end of the nineteenth century. Its efforts were directed at the legal plight of homosexuals because the latter still bore the brunt of legal and social intolerance that had survived the middle ages. The Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, founded in Berlin in 1897, took as its primary goal the repeal of Paragraph 175 of the Penal Code of the German Reich, a stance ratified by the World League for Sexual Reform on a Scientific Basis in the 1920s. However,
even in such democratic countries as England and the United States, a still uninformed and puritanical public opinion frustrated the attempt to create similar movements until the 1950s.

The new era commenced after the Second World War with the Kinsey Reports of 1948 and 1953, and the Report of the Wolfenden Committee in 1957. The extent of the tabooed sexual activity became known to the public as never before, and a committee appointed by parliament after weighing the evidence concluded that private, consenting homosexual behavior was "not the law's business," while sociologists argued that "victimless crimes" harmed no one and their prosecution was detrimental rather than beneficial to society. Further, the notion of privacy in sexual matters as a right of the individual found its way into legal discourse, so that the European Court of Human Rights in 1981, in response to an appeal brought by a citizen of Northern Ireland, held that laws penalizing private consensual homosexual behavior violated the right of privacy guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights (1950).

Informed opinion has veered almost totally to the side of decriminalization of homosexual activity, and in a few jurisdictions the first steps have been taken toward guaranteeing homosexuals the civil rights enjoyed by the rest of the population but denied them because of the social intolerance that still thrives in circles that regard the Old Testament as the inspired word of God. In the 1980s the issue of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) unhappily raised the specter of a "threat to public health," gleefully brandished by the enemies of law reform to reinforce their never-ending citations from Leviticus and Romans when arguing before the courts and legislatures. But the secular trend is toward the abolition of the penal statutes that echo the canon law of the medieval church, as even more and more heterosexuals depart from the Christian ideal of "life-long, indissoluble, monogamous heterosexual marriage." Consequently, the legislators and appellate courts of the future will have the task of defining intimate relationships between members of the same sex (and members of opposite sexes) so as to do justice to the realities of social life and the interests of the community.

See also Common Law; Criminal Law Amendment Act; Law, Feudal and Royal; Law, Germanic; Law, Municipal.

Warren Johansson

LAW, BRITISH
See Common Law.

LAW, CANON
See Canon Law.

LAW, COMMON
See Common Law.

LAW, FEUDAL AND ROYAL
Between 1050 and 1300 scholars of ecclesiastical or canon law and scholastics and other theologians had defined sodomy as tantamount to murder, both sins contrary to reason, nature, and the will of God. The rebirth of the study of Roman law occurred after 1100 with the discovery of Justinian's Digest or Pandects (compiled during the early phase of the Byzantine Empire). This legal revival gave renewed currency to the provision condemning sodomy as an infamous crime deserving of the death penalty. Doctors of civil law from the University of Bologna—which also awarded degrees in canon law, often to the same candidate, so that he became Doctor utriusque iuris, "Doctor of both laws"—cited the Corpus Iuris Civis, which contained in addition to the Digest, the Code, Institutes and Novellae, to demand capital punishment in secular law and severer penalties in canon law. In his Commentary on the Code, ca. 1230, Accursius briefly noted the distinction the Romans made between stuprum (forcible rape of a female or a boy) and consensual sodomy, for which there had been no penalty before 342. Accursius correctly
commented that *stuprum* referred to rape of boys as well as females. Peter the Chanter (d. 1197) equated homosexual acts with murder and the Third Lateran Council in 1179 ordered guilty clerics defrocked or confined to monasteries and laymen excommunicated. Moslems were accused of raping men and boys and even sodomizing a bishop to death. The Germanic law codes of the early Middle Ages had made no reference to homosexual offenses. Charlemagne, shocked by monkish sodomy, threatened penalties against the offenders, but the only part of a capitulary of Charlemagne (in 779) condemning homosexual acts that survives is a forgery. In 966 in Rome the Emperor Otto I promulgated an edict that prescribed strangulation and burning for sodomy between males, as it were epitomizing Theodosius' edict of 390.

Crusaders were accused of importing effeminate Moslem customs to Europe. This charge underlay the suspicion of the Templars. Thirty years after the First Crusade, the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem drafted the first secular laws during the high Middle Ages prescribing burning for sodomites. "When Saracens see boys, they lust for them and like mad dogs race to buy the (Frankish) boys," declared William of Ada.

Before the end of the twelfth century, other civil authorities began to assume jurisdiction over sodomy. Hitherto the clergy had meted out penances for it and continued to do so, though it soon became "reserved" so that only bishops could absolve it, in part because it had become associated with heresy. In 1215 the Fourth Lateran Council called for secular help against heretics, with whom sodomites were classified. When the episcopate failed, the Papal inquisitors increasingly took charge after 1220. The Inquisition associated the Cathari of Southern France, also called "Bougres" because their sect was identified with the Bogomils of Bulgaria, with sodomy. Inquisitors supported by the crown tortured and burned the sodomites in Toulouse and throughout the South along with the Albigensians. The Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II promulgated the Constitutions of Melfi in 1231, which conspicuously omitted sodomy, of which he himself was accused. Likewise silent were the German Sachsenspiegel and Schwabenspiegel compiled in Frederick's reign. However, Alfonso X of Castile, St. Louis of France, and Edward I of England all used Roman law to create a national law to override local customs and centralize their realms, and claimed jurisdiction over capital crimes such as sodomy and the property of those convicted thereof. The Guelph Charles of Anjou, king of Sicily from 1266 to 1285, regularly paid papal inquisitors from his royal coffers.

Individual Countries. As Boswell argues, "between 1250 and 1300 in most Catholic countries laws which had previously ignored homosexual acts prescribed the death penalty for them." But these laws were inspired by the church as when Gregory IX sent the Dominicans to exterminate sodomy in Germany "so ridden with unnatural vice... that some parts, especially Austria, are thought of as infected with the foulness of leprosy." About 1250 the English legal author Fleta prescribed burning for sodomites, to whom the earlier collections of Glanville and Britton or those known as the "Laws of Henry I" had made no reference.

Alfonso X of Castille (ca. 1226-1284) prescribed castration and then stoning, and his *Siete Partidas* considered sodomy "infamous" so that it dishonored the offender's clan and deprived them of their inheritance. In 1497 Ferdinand and Isabella, los reyes católicos, ordered confiscation of goods and burning alive, no matter what class the offender, treating such cases as mixti fori, belonging to both secular and ecclesiastical courts. The Spanish Inquisition gained jurisdiction in Aragon, but not in Castile or Sicily.

Pope Nicholas II had empowered the papal Inquisition to investigate sodomy in 1457. In 1506 at Seville inquisitors
arrested a great number of suspects, though many more fled, and burnt 12. When in Valencia in 1519 a Friar preached that the pest infecting the city was caused by sodomites, the mob found four culprits who confessed and were burnt by the justiciary, and a fifth who given a lesser sentence was seized by the populace, garroted, and burnt.

Philip II in 1569 ordered rigid enforcement by royal officers of the death penalty in Sicily, the informer receiving a bounty from the estate of the sodomite, but since there were not many convictions, jurisdiction reverted to the Inquisition in 1597.

At the urging of João III [1502–1557], but only after his death, the Papacy agreed to have the Inquisition in Portugal deal with sodomy. In 1562 Pope Pius IV ordered that Portuguese inquisitors punish sodomy, but as in Aragon according to the laws of the municipality in which the offense occurred, with punishment either burning or scourging and the galleys.

The Coutumes of Touraine-Anjou were reflected in the Etablissements of St. Louis. Noting that his action was in accord with papal decrets, Louis ordered confiscation of property and burning of sodomites, as did Philippe de Beaumanoir in Les Coutumes de Beauvaisis [1283]. A collection of statutes made in 1260 at Orléans prescribed confiscation of property by the crown and mutilation, castration, and burning for the first, second, and third offense for women as well as for men. Philip IV [1285–1314] solved all questions of jurisdiction between canon, municipal, and royal courts by reserving them all for the crown. In the trial of the Templars, Philip dominated the pope, the inquisitors readily cooperating with the king.

The Norwegian law of Gulathing ca. 1250 permanently outlawed sodomites.

Conclusion. The revival of Roman law and its reception by the legislators and jurists of Western Europe, completed in Germany in the sixteenth century, meant the virtually unanimous adoption of the death penalty prescribed by the book of Leviticus and the Christian Roman Emperors. Backed by the hallowed traditions of Roman justice, the intolerance of homosexual expression lasted until Beccaria, Voltaire, and the thinkers of the Enlightenment put an end to what they considered part of the barbarity of the Middle Ages.


William A. Percy

LAW, GERMANIC

The law codes of the Germanic tribes that overran the Western half of the Roman Empire in the fifth century are known collectively as the Leges barbarorum or Germanic law. Recorded in Medieval Latin at various times between the fifth and ninth centuries, they imitated Roman law in codifying what until then had been an oral tradition of customary law. They departed from the geographically uniformity which the Empire had gradually and somewhat imperfectly imposed upon legal status and legal practice in that they were Stammes- und Standesrechte, sets of legal norms that depended upon the tribal membership and social status of the juridical subject, not upon where he lived. Their adoption contributed to the particularism of the early Middle Ages that ended only with the triumph of codes applicable to the entire territory of nation-states and embodying the principle of the equality of all citizens before the law which the Enlightenment achieved at the close of the eighteenth century.

Frequently cited as evidence that the primitive Germanic tribes punished male homosexuality with death is the passage in the twelfth chapter of the Germania of Tacitus which tells how the Germans drowned ignavos et imbelles et
corpore infames in swamps with a basket of wickerwork over their heads. The last of the three Latin terms has usually been taken to mean "sodomites." However, close philological analysis of the entire passage and of the phrase in question shows that Tacitus was describing a violation of military discipline, cowardice or failure to perform one's soldierly duty, and not a sexual offense. This three-part Latin expression renders the Old Norse word argr, with the notion of passivity and lack of courage associated with the passive-effeminate male rather than sexual behavior per se. In any case Tacitus was exaggerating Germanic virtue, bravery, and sexual continence to condemn Roman vice, cowardice, and licentiousness. Ammianus Marcellinus and Procopius, on the other hand, testify that Germanic warriors enjoyed pederastic acts with impunity and commonly indulged in them.

The Germanic codes generally omit discussion of penalties for homosexual behavior, and the Icelandic sagas show that such conduct was a purely private matter entailing, to be sure, frightful ignominy for the passive adult partner, but no penal retribution on the part of the tribe or local community. Among the Germanic peoples the imposition of sexual morality was exercised entirely by the family as an internal matter. Most experts writing on this question agree that intolerance in sexual matters stems from the Judaic influence on ecclesiastical law, fundamentally alien to Germanic mentality and custom. The introduction of criminal sanctions against sodomy was the work of the Christian church. In citing Tacitus to justify the death penalty for homosexual "degenerates" and "race defilers," National Socialist writers of the 1930s were guilty of monumental anachronisms characteristic of the confused and irrational thinking by which they validated the sodomy delusion in seemingly contemporary terms.

It is true, however, that Germanic peoples associated passive homosexuality with cowardice and also with the practice of seidr, sorcery, for which they could on occasion exact drastic penalties. According to an account in Historia Norwegiae, Rognvaldr Rettileini, a wizard versed in magical lore, was drowned in Hadaland at the command of his father King Harald because of the disgrace that he had incurred by busying himself with an art that stamped him an as argr (in the Latin original ob usitatem inertissimae artis ignominiam infamatus).

A separate matter is the so-called Moorleichenfrage, the problem posed by human remains found in bogs and marshes in a condition supporting the belief that these are the corpses of individuals either sacrificed or executed. The full range of motives and circumstances behind their deaths remains obscure because written evidence for the practice is slim. However, it is clear that the victim was meant to disappear from sight and never return as a malevolent ghost, hence the custom of sinking him in morasses and bog holes that were imagined as a fathomless abyss.

The actual texts of the codes from the early Middle Ages contain no such provisions. The Codex Eurićianus for the West Gothic subjects of King Eurić [475–76], the Breviarium Alaricianum [a summary of Roman law for the "Roman" subjects of the Visigoths, not a compendium of Germanic custom], the Lex Visigothorum of the sixth and seventh centuries, the Edictum Theoderici [supposedly before 507], the Lex Burgundionum [after 480], the Pactus Legis Salicæ [ca. 507], the Pactus Legis Ribvariae [seventh century], the Pactus Legis Alamannorum [seventh century], the Pactus Legis Alamannorum [seventh century], and the Edictus Rothari [643] make no mention of homosexual offenses. The last, the Lex Baiuvariorum, Lex Thuringorum, and Lex Saxonum were all completed before 900. New redactions of most of these laws were promulgated under the Carolingians. The Anglo-Saxon dooms from Aethelbert of Kent [560–616] to the Danish King Canute the Great [1016–1038] are the greatest collections of Germanic laws and were written in Anglo-Saxon
rather than in Latin; not one specifically refers to sodomy.

The Visigothic Law, which alone among Germanic laws treated prostitution in detail, provided that a woman could divorce her husband if he committed sodomy with another male or forced her into adultery against her will. The significant point is that *tale nefas fieri nequaquam inter Christianos oportet*, "such wrongdoing ought nowhere to occur among Christians," revealing the foreign and churchly origin of the sanction.

Penitentials, the decisions of church councils, and decrees of local bishops do not belong under this subject, as they derive from Biblical and canon law and not from Germanic custom. The very language in which they are couched reflects at every point the influence of the Latin text of the Scriptures and of Patristic thought. In this vein King Recesvinth ca. 654 had imposed the penalty of castration on sodomites, and the Visigothic king Egica (687-701), in a message to the sixteenth Council of Toledo [693], urged the assembled dignitaries to "extirpate that obscene crime committed by abusers of themselves with mankind, whose fearful conduct defiles the charm of decent living and provokes from heaven the wrath of the supreme Judge." Upon receiving the statement of the council he reinforced it with an edict of his own prescribing not only castration but also the death penalty for all found guilty of the crime.

Codes in the Germanic languages from the later Middle Ages that condemn homosexual practices use terms such as sodomy and buggery that stem from Christian legend and belief, not from native tradition. That medieval lawmakers had to employ such exotic expressions (the one of Semitic, the other ultimately of Turkic origin) shows how foreign the very notion of the offense was to the Germanic culture of antiquity. The ultimate acceptance of the taboo among Germanic folk must be ascribed to Christian indoctrination, even if underlying pagan attitudes linking passive male homosexuality with cowardice and sorcery to some extent reinforced the disapproval. Accusations of homosexuality did not figure notably in the witchcraft delusion of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, even in Germanic lands where it raged the most fiercely.


Warren Johansson and William A. Percy

**LAW, MUNICIPAL**

Municipal ordinances against sodomy were first enacted in Italy in the later Middle Ages as the slackening of imperial power produced a situation of de facto local autonomy.

The Ecclesiastical Background. The papacy accused of sodomy the imperial forces it was fighting in Italy. In 1233 the Curia enlisted the religious enthusiasm of the newly founded mendicant friars (Franciscans and Dominicans, who were directing the Inquisition in Southern France). Manipulated by the popes and the Guelph (pro-papal) bankers and merchants, the friars denounced the sexual laxity of the Ghibelline nobles who supported the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II and his sons, and insisted upon the execution of heretics, sodomites, and other offenders against morality. At Ancona, Bologna, whose university had revived the study of Roman law, and Perugia, lay confraternities of the orders of friars received authority to prosecute sodomites.
Although falling into disuse or repealed following the Ghibelline victory at Cortenuova in 1237, the statutes were reenacted after the Guelph triumph at Benevento in 1266. Inquisitors branded noble Ghibellines as pederasts and adulterers, while other mendicants defamed heretics and Jews, the latter with the accusation of ritual murder. In 1255–61 Humbert of Romans, the Dominican general, advised brothers in Bologna, Mantua, and Faenza to suppress that “evil filth,” sodomy. A Dominican brother, a Guelph, introduced statutes in Bologna in 1265–66 ordering state assistance in prosecuting heretics and sodomites. Burning replaced mild penalties in Perugia in 1309, and its code of 1342 ordered that eight men be chosen from each of the five quarters of the city to denounce sodomites. Most Italian communes, as in Sicily, enacted the penalty of burning for sodomites and confiscation of their property, sometimes as at Ascoli Piceno offering a bounty to informers and collaborators in prosecution. Pisa fined those harboring sodomites 100 lire and at Bologna the building in which sodomy occurred could be burnt along with its inhabitants. Every important city-state persecuted sodomites throughout the Italian Renaissance, including Leonardo da Vinci and Benvenuto Cellini.

Although secular, these codes referred frequently to Scripture, the Patristic writers, papal decretals, Canon law, the Decretum of Gratian, and Thomas Aquinas. On the other hand, there is no allusion whatever in them to the “feelings of the people;” they appealed to no plebiscite or democratic process for their justification. Modern apologists for the Church, who claim that these laws were enacted because “the way people felt was utterly different from what it is now,” are simply inventing a rationale that in medieval times would not have interested, let alone persuaded anyone who held power.

Municipal Ordinances Proper.

Siena, Perugia, and Florence enacted the longest ordinances against sodomy. In 1305 Fra Giordano condemned Florence as a veritable Sodom where fathers encouraged sons to prostitute themselves, and in the next century Matteo ascribed the floods that destroyed one-third of the city to the widespread practice of sodomy. In 1325 the Podestà graduated penalties according to the age of the culprit and the frequency of his offenses: pederasty was punished by castration. A boy who submitted voluntarily to the act was beaten, driven through the city naked, or fined 50 lire. The pan- derer, his accomplice, or a habitual criminal suffered a fine of 500 lire; if unable to pay the sum, he had his hand cut off; if he had no hand, then his foot. A father who induced his son to commit the act was punished likewise. The dwelling, field, or other premises in which the act was committed with the owner’s consent was to be destroyed or laid waste. Any man found in suspicious circumstances with a boy to whom he was not related was presumed guilty of the offense and punished accordingly. “Rogues,” “imposters,” and foreign criminals, of which Florence was notoriously full, received particularly severe punishment, and boxes were placed about the city to receive anonymous denunciations. In 1403 the Signoria created the Questa to protect public morality and especially to suppress sodomy, though favoring female prostitution, and in 1432 established the Official of the Curfew and the Convents to suppress sodomy. Siena in 1421, and other Italian cities during the same period, took similar measures. In the 1490s the Dominican Savonarola ordered exposure for the first offense, tying to a pillar for the second, and burning for the third.

Linking sodomites with heretics and Patarenes (a mob of hyperenthusiasts who had flourished in eleventh-century northern Italy), in 1262 and 1270 Siena expelled those who did not confess within a week and a day and confiscated their goods, and on the first Sunday in every month expelled members in every category. In 1309–10 the commune ordained a
fine of 300 lire for the first offense, the culprit being hung by his virile member in the town square if he did not pay within a month. In 1324 it ordered men to track down sodomites "in order to honor the Lord, ensure the peace, maintain the good morals and praiseworthy life of the people" and quoted Ephesians 5:6 that the crime if not punished would bring God’s ire down upon the town. Bologna punished sodomites with burning or perpetual exile in 1259.

Venice. The Adriatic city’s illicit sexual culture, in which even some of the most distinguished citizens occasionally participated, included prostitutes, mistresses, street people, and sodomites. The state increasingly interfered with sexual conduct after the oligarchy took charge by closing the Grand Council to new members in 1297. Rhetoric and prosecutions for sodomy grew during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries as Jews were being confined to the periphery. In 1458 the Council of Ten tightened surveillance and increased the number of patrolers, explaining that "God... detesting the sin of sodomy... brought down his wrath upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and soon thereafter flooded and destroyed the whole world for such horrible sins; [hence] our most wise ancestors sought with all their laws and experts to liberate our city from such a dangerous divine judgment.” God had not punished any other sin so harshly!

Records of the night police, which began in 1348, mention prosecution in that year of two servants who shared the same bed. Having confessed under torture to taking the active role in “unnatural intercourse, one was burned alive between the columns of justice before the Doge’s palace. After the discovery of a circle involving at least fifteen nobles in 1406, the Council of Ten, which in one case held that sodomy on board would cause God to destroy the fleet, took over jurisdiction of this most dangerous crime from the night police. In 1497 the Doge heard a Franciscan monk ascribe the plague to blasphemy, usury, selling justice, and “the societies of sodomy” and convents of nuns that were really “whorehouses and public bordellos.” The Ten labeled sodomy “the most foul crime,” “the most infamous sin,” and "a diabolical desire.”

The Ten, which offered 2,000 lire to anyone making a denunciation that resulted in conviction, uncovered groups of up to twenty, several of which in the early periods involved Florentines or people who had been in Florence. By the fifteenth century Venice had a widespread subculture, centering around apothecary shops; schools of gymnastics, singing, music, dance, and the abacus; pastry shops; and certain dark areas. The authorities regularly distinguished between actives, who were burned, and passives (pathics), often young following the immemorial Mediterranean pattern, who normally received lashes, fines, and imprisonment. Pueri [who might be as young as ten] were seldom even prosecuted in the fourteenth century, 14 years being considered adult, but after 1424 those under 14 were “not to be freely absolved as in the past... but... subject to a minimum penalty of three months in jail and in addition ought to receive from 12 to 20 lashes in the torture chamber.” Occasionally boys were prosecuted as actives and older males as passives. For capital sentences in the early fifteenth century decapitation and then burning supplanted burning alive. One jailed individual had undergone brutal prolonged torture that damaged his genitals and other bodily parts; the doctor advised amputating his arms to save his life.

Between 1326 and 1359 five individuals were prosecuted; 1351-75, 8; 1376-1400, 3; 1401-25, 87; 1426-50, 81; 1451-75, 134; and 1476-1500, 196. Between 1326 and 1500 514 individuals, including 66 nobles, were prosecuted, in 279 cases of which 78 involved boys, 34 females, and 33 nobles. The Ten complained to the pope that clerical sodo-
mites, escaping persecution by secular courts, were not being sufficiently punished by courts canon, merely being banished from Venetian territory by the Council. Sexual immorality was commonly ascribed to those accused of heresy.

Elsewhere in Europe. Communes in Northern Europe also punished sodomites. The first documented burning occurred in Ghent when on September 28, 1292 John, a local knifemaker, was burned near the pillory. The same source documented the banishment of an adulteress and the burning of her house. The last previous documented execution had taken place in 521, shortly before the reign of Justinian. In the fourteenth century the legal school of Orléans synthesized the Puero real and the Siete Partidas of Alfonso the Wise in a code punishing the first sodomitical offense by castration, the second by dismemberment, and the third by burning. In Portugal as in Aragon in the sixteenth century the Inquisition tried and punished sodomites according to the statutes of the municipalities in which the trial occurred, but in Castile the municipalities themselves did so.

In Germany, where the Magdeburg Law had ignored it, sodomy entered the law codes in the sixteenth century with the Bamberg Halsgerichtsordnung [Constitutio Criminalis Bambergensis] of 1507, evidently inspired by the Italian jurists of the preceding century and the Italian municipalities. The provisions of this code became Article 116 of the Peinliche Gerichtsordnung Kaiser Karls V [Constitutio Criminalis Carolina], enacted by the Imperial Diet in Regensburg on July 29, 1532. This article decreed death for Unkeusch wider die Natur [unchastity against nature] “in accordance with the common law.” Exceedingly influential as was the Carolina as far east as Russia and down to the French Revolution, it found no reception in England or its colonies. England with its strong crown saw no municipal ordinances and no Inquisition. In 1533, the year following the Carolina but apparently independent of it, Parliament enacted the statute 25 Henry VIII c. 6 ordering death by hanging for the crime of “buggery with mankind or beast.” Despite much discussion of the origins of this enactment, the precise reasons for its adoption in 1533 remain unknown.

Conclusion. The particularism of medieval law allowed for local variations in the punishment for sodomy after the lawlessness of the Dark Ages, but never toleration. Public exposure and humiliation of the offender and even the obliteration of the site of his crime expressed late medieval society’s fanatical campaign against “unnatural” forms of sexual expression. While the statutes were abolished long ago, their enforcement left in the popular mind into the twentieth century a legacy of fear and loathing.

See also Police; Sixteenth-Century Legislation.


William A. Percy

LAW, ROMAN

See Rome, Ancient.

LAW, UNITED STATES

Homosexuality is relevant to a number of aspects of American law. Historically, the criminal offense of sodomy has been pivotal for the legal situation of homosexuals in post-Classical civilization. The sexual negativism enshrined in Europe’s sodomy laws, a type of condemnation which is scarcely a cultural universal, came to North America in colonial times as part of the heritage of English common law. New themes emerged, however, during the second half of the twentieth century as decriminalization spread among the most populous and important American states, in keeping with a trend evident throughout the industrialized world. As elsewhere, sodomy law reform proved not the end of the road, but the beginning, for
ancillary problems stemming from old prejudices remained.

The Criminal Law. In the English-speaking world, the subject of homosexuality and the law was placed on the agenda by the Report of the Wolfenden Committee in Britain in 1957. Until then it had been tacitly assumed, if not explicitly stated, that homosexual activity (characterized as "sodomy," "buggery," or "the infamous crime against nature") was immoral and illegal, and that the individual engaging in such conduct had no rights which the law or society needed to recognize in any way—apart from the rights accorded to all defendants in criminal cases, though reputable lawyers often refused to defend individuals accused of homosexual offenses.

The Wolfenden Report had considerable impact in the United States. Yet its reception occurred in the context of an important fact: the American states are sovereign in the sense that each has its own criminal code and civil code and its own regulations governing state employees, together with a court system that hears cases arising under state law and appeals from the decisions of courts of first instance. To be sure, no state law can stand if found in conflict with the United States Constitution, and this principle of review of legislative acts by courts whose members serve for long terms or even for life has served several minority groups seeking to affirm their rights. The American Constitution is the outcome of the fusion of French and Italian political and legal theory with British and colonial law and administrative practice. Hence in the United States the Constitution limits the power both of Congress and of the individual state legislatures, and the state constitutions do the same for their respective jurisdictions. By contrast, in Great Britain the power of Parliament is absolute: there is no plea of "unconstitutionality." Although the United Kingdom has adhered to the European Convention on Human Rights, providing for the hearing of cases by a tribunal in Strasbourg, the decisions of the tribunal are not absolutely binding on member states. In the United States, as indicated, the Constitution is supreme. With reference to homosexuality, however, the federal law codes and the federal judiciary are chiefly significant for such issues as federal employment, military service and the rights of service personnel, and immigration and naturalization.

The first efforts at sodomy law reform in the United States were influenced by English thinking. The Wolfenden Report of 1957 made a classical liberal case for repeal of the criminal laws against private homosexual activity between consenting adults; ten years later Parliament acted on its recommendations, decriminalizing homosexual conduct between consenting adults in England and Wales. About half the American states have followed suit, though in several major instances the law was struck down by the decision of a state appellate court rather than by the action of the legislature. In the other half of the states nearly all forms of homosexual intimacy involving penetration are still criminal, though prosecutions (which were never common for the full offense of sodomy) are today ever rarer. The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in Bowers v. Hardwick (1986) upheld the constitutionality of the Georgia sodomy law, ruling that there was no right of privacy in regard to homosexual behavior. Nonetheless, the constitutionality of sodomy laws may still be tested in regard to other issues such as the establishment of religion clause of the First Amendment and the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth. Canada (1969) and New Zealand (1987) have repealed the criminal laws on their entire territory, while in Australia the individual states still vary in their legal norms.

If prosecutions for the act of sodomy were uncommon even in the past, charges of loitering or solicitation for indecent purposes were frequently brought against homosexual men, often as the result...
of entrapment by plainclothesmen of the vice squad who accosted them in known cruising areas. Minor as the actual charge may have been, if the facts became known to an individual's employer or family, the outcome could be a ruined career and a personal tragedy. Also, the attorney who was willing to represent the defendant in such a case was often concerned only with extracting from him as large a fee as possible. Lesbians ran afoul of the criminal law principally through statutes against cross-dressing in public, as most of the repressive activity of the state in regard to the female was aimed at the prostitute with a male clientele. Historically, the sodomy laws—the ultimate linchpin of all legal discrimination against homosexuals—are grounded in religious horror of sexual activity between males.

Gay Couples. The union of man and woman is consecrated in law and custom by the act of marriage, which conveys legally specified rights and duties to both partners. Until quite recently, couples of the same sex lived outside the law, which was not a protector but an oppressor. The property rights of the couple languished in a legal limbo; if there was a dispute between them, neither party could venture to bring the matter to court, as both would have been exposed to prosecution and imprisonment, or at the very least to social ostracism and economic ruin. But with the end of the criminal laws and the onset of the movement for the recognition of gay rights, cases involving gay couples began to reach the courts.

The landmark decision was the one rendered in the case of a heterosexual couple, Marvin v. Marvin, decided by the California Supreme Court in 1976. The court first declared that marital property laws do not apply to persons who are not legally married, but recognizing that unmarried couples had become a fact of American social life, the court held that the parties to such unions “may order their economic affairs as they choose.” The fact that a couple is living together outside of wedlock does not invalidate such agreements by mutual consent. A gay couple living together is free to enter a contract to divide income, property, and all other assets as the two see fit, just as if they were partners in a business or any two competent adults conducting a business transaction. In states that have adopted the Marvin ruling, such a contract is legally binding and enforceable. Yet the question remains open as to what behavior, circumstances, and conduct have created an implied agreement to share property.

A couple seeking to guard against unforeseen problems and conflicts in the future will, therefore, formulate a contract which may be as broad or as specific as the parties choose. The contract will be enforceable in court only to the extent that it concerns personal and real property. Provisions for the support and custody of children will be enforced by a court only if the judge finds that the provisions reflect “the best interests of the children.” A contract may also refer to financial obligations assumed by the couple on a specified basis over a future time span.

Under the law of intestate succession, if one member of a gay couple dies without having willed his property to the other, the estate passes to the relatives of the deceased, who, if they disapprove of the relationship or actively resent the presence of the partner, can simply dispossess him and treat him as a perfect stranger with no claims whatever, even if he has been intimate with the lover for many years.

Child Custody. The custody of children conceived in a heterosexual union is commonly the most difficult problem a previously married homosexual or lesbian faces. If there is a court battle over custody, the heterosexual partner to the marriage will try to use facts, accusations, and insinuations about the deviant lifestyle, identity, and behavior of the rival party to win his case. The defense is that one's sexual identity is irrelevant to being
a good and devoted parent. If the spouses agree on the custody of the children, the court will almost certainly ratify the decision without prying into the details of the parents' private life. Court battles arise when the parents cannot agree, and particularly when the heterosexual parent wants to deny the bisexual or homosexual one virtually all custody rights. The latter faces a difficult uphill battle in court, especially if he or she is living openly with a lover. In the last few years, however, some courts have renounced the practice of automatically denying custody to the homosexual parent. Even where custody is not granted, the parent may have visitation rights, which means that he or she can see and spend time with the child under specified conditions. During most of the twentieth century, the mother was almost always awarded custody unless she was found to be an “unfit” parent—as lesbians usually were in disputed cases. In practice, the judge has almost complete discretion in awarding custody where the parents are in conflict, and even in restricting visitation rights by forbidding the mere presence of the homosexual parent's new lover. Because of the moral stigma still attaching to homosexual behavior, the odds are still against the unconventional parent in a custody dispute.

Employment. There is no federal legislation to protect homosexuals in employment. In the absence of local or state protections, employers may refuse to hire, decline to promote, and even demote or dismiss a homosexual employee solely on the grounds of “immoral conduct” or a similar accusation. Fellow workers may complain to an employer that they resent the presence of a homosexual in their midst. For many gay people the open acknowledgement of their orientation spells the likelihood of the loss of employment or of opportunity for promotion. Beginning with World War II, “fair employment practices” statutes and regulations of various kinds were enacted at the federal and state levels which at first prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or national origin, but not of sexual orientation (or “affectional preference”), which became an issue only when it was raised by gay rights organizations in the 1970s. Since then some 50 towns, cities, and states have enacted laws extending the protection of these anti-discrimination measures to homosexuals. The homosexual who is most exposed to prejudice is one who works with children in any capacity, not only because of fear of child molestation but also because such an individual is deemed an unsuitable role model for the young. Nevertheless teachers' unions have fought for the inclusion of anti-discrimination clauses in their contracts, and the devotion and frustration tolerance which the homosexual teacher or counselor is able to bring to his or her work speak for rather than against fairness in such cases.

Housing. This matter poses a special problem for the homosexual, because most housing is oriented toward families, and the permanently single individual is often marginalized by society's assumption that the status is merely transitory. Landlords can, where no legal protection exists, refuse to rent an apartment to an individual or to a pair of individuals whom they believe to be homosexual, again on the grounds that their presence would be “morally offensive” to the other tenants, to families with children, and the like. Also, if one member of a gay couple dies, the survivor may find himself with no rights comparable to those of a heterosexual widow or widower and liable to be evicted from the premises at the landlord's whim. In cities where gentrification is proceeding apace, the landlord may find it very much in his own interest to expel the partner and then raise the rent enormously. On the other hand, cases involving refusal to admit a homosexual as a guest in a hotel, motel, or restaurant, in contrast with the type of discrimination formerly practiced on religious or racial grounds, are quite rare.
Military. The unfitness of homosexuals for military service was taken so much for granted in the past that the Senate Subcommittee of 1950 that investigated Senator Joseph McCarthy's charges of "sex perverts in government" could only congratulate the military for its aggressiveness in "ferreting out sex perverts." Only in the 1970s did a few brave servicemen and women dare to challenge the long-standing policy of exclusion, usually with no legal success. The courts repeatedly upheld the right to the armed services to discharge known homosexuals, as in the well-publicized cases of Leonard Matlovich in the Army and Vernon Berg in the Navy. The upper echelons of the military are reputed to be virtually paranoid on the subject of homosexual activity in their midst. Those who were separated from the military for homosexual behavior often received undesirable or dishonorable discharges that handicapped them for life, making certain kinds of employment unobtainable because of the moral stigma with which they had been branded. In individual cases it was possible to have the official record of the discharge altered in favor of the ex-serviceman, particularly if the rest of his conduct had been exemplary. The federal courts continue to hear appeals from military personnel who acknowledge their homosexual orientation but claim that it does not impair their fitness to serve.

Immigration and Naturalization. This area was the first in which the law actually took notice of homosexuality as a condition recognized by psychiatry. Until the twentieth century the courts everywhere acted on the assumption that homosexual conduct stemmed from willful depravity, not from an abnormal mental state. A law of 1917 had excluded prospective immigrants with "constitutional psychopathic inferiority," and the Walter McCarran Act of 1950, adopted at a moment when McCarthyism had raised the issue of "sex perversion," specified that homosexuality was grounds for denial of immigration and naturalization. The United States is virtually unique among the nations of the world in seeking to exclude foreigners from its territory solely on grounds of homosexuality, but despite severe criticism of the law, it has not been repealed, though some federal courts have decided in favor of homosexual plaintiffs in particular instances.

AIDS and the Law. The discovery in 1981 of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) as a condition particularly affecting homosexual men created a whole new series of legal issues with which the American legal system has had to contend. Despite the data accumulated by medical investigators as to the specific modes of transmission of AIDS, the general public quickly gained the false notion that the condition was highly contagious and could be spread even by casual and indirect forms of contact. The pervasive fear of contagion, anxiety about casual transmission, and the stigmatization of the AIDS carrier in the public mind has led to a demand for measures to protect public health at the expense of civil liberties, particularly the liberties of persons diagnosed as having AIDS or falling into "high risk" categories. Traditional public health practices—screening, testing, reporting, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine—have all been invoked. At the same time organizations defending the rights of people with AIDS have vehemently opposed most if not all of these measures. A further problem is AIDS-Related Complex [ARC] and even the test finding of seropositivity, which can become grounds for discrimination and exclusion.

The American courts have dealt with AIDS in the context of statutes protecting victims of disease and handicap from discrimination—statutes that ironically are far more widespread than ones protecting the rights of homosexuals. So a homosexual diagnosed as having AIDS can appeal to the courts for the protection of rights that are not extended to his sexual orientation. However, it is a fact that even
within the ranks of health workers there is such intense fear of contracting AIDS through repeated contact with patients that some physicians, dentists, and hospital employees have refused to treat such individuals. The common law does not impose any duty upon even a qualified physician to treat a patient unless a contractual relationship exists. Here the legal obligation is narrower than the ethical tradition, as it has been enshrined in the Hippocratic Oath.

Claims for public assistance to people with AIDS fall into the sphere of social policy, but where a state has created the right of indigent persons to support in case of illness, this right applies to the penniless individual diagnosed with the condition. The special problem arises of the ability and willingness of municipal governments to provide the facilities (hospices, intensive care units, and the like) required to cope with the mounting number of AIDS cases. Here AIDS activist organizations have labored mightily to bring the issue before the legislative bodies and the general public to secure funding for such facilities.

Individuals in “total institutions” such as prisons, military units and the like can be subjected to forms of involuntary screening and isolation, with minimal concern for confidentiality, as medical records are frequently accessible to a whole range of authorities—and even to office staff in the institution. While the armed services have the option of promptly separating personnel found to be carriers of AIDS, prisons for obvious reasons cannot find such an easy solution. Prison officials are required under the terms of the Eighth Amendment to protect inmates from infection and to care for those who develop the disease. The social order of the prison entails a considerable amount of coerced homosexual behavior in which weaker inmates are subjected to sexual penetration of a kind that exposes them to high risk for AIDS, and although Federal courts have held that a prisoner has the right to protection from such abuse, enforcing that right within the context of the informal power system of the prison is exceedingly difficult.

A wider area of the concern is the wish of insurance companies to exclude real and potential AIDS carriers from access to coverage—which in practice means measures aimed at identifying and excluding homosexual men, or demanding higher premiums for policies that cover death from AIDS-related illness. Here traditionally influential insurance companies have crossed swords with gay rights activists in seeking to gain favorable actions from the courts and legislatures.

Immigration and travel are also issues impacted by the AIDS crisis, as one country after another has adopted measures calling for obligatory testing of visitors or of foreign nationals remaining more than a specified time on its territory. Such policies fall within its competence as a sovereign state and could be challenged, if at all, only in its own courts, where the foreigner does not enjoy the rights of a citizen.

The greatest threat to homosexual rights posed by the AIDS crisis has been the new relevance given to clauses in the various charters of human rights that allow any right to be abridged in the interest of “public health and morals.” While the latter obstacle was still in vigor as late as the beginning of the 1960s, it was beginning to fade away when the threat of AIDS gave immediacy to the former one. The public health issue has been the perfect pretext for advocates of a traditional religious morality to claim that homosexuals should be denied equal rights because “their sexual activity spreads AIDS.” This is, strictly speaking, true only of male homosexuals, not of lesbians, who are virtually immune to venereal disease because of the obvious anatomical differences in their mode of sexual union, but the ignorant and fearful have extended the discrimination to them as well. So AIDS has spawned a new handicap, in current practice if not in
ultimate accomplishment, for those advocating full legal equality for homosexual men and women in contemporary society.

**Conclusions.** In keeping with the European origin of the defining traits of American civilization, the legal problems facing homosexuals emanate from the sodomy legislation of late medieval and Renaissance Europe. Yet the range of topics covered in this article points to a second important determinant: in a context suffused with age-old popular prejudice, the excision of these laws does not in and of itself resolve all difficulties. Permanent change can be achieved only through manifold and patient efforts toward legal reform combined with the spread of more accurate knowledge of human sexuality. Nonetheless, citizens of the United States are fortunate to enjoy not only the common law traditions of individual liberty, but also such distinctively American possessions as the Bill of Rights and the principle of judicial review. These resources offer protections and opportunities lacking—it scarcely needs remarking—not only in Third World and Communist countries, but even in Britain itself. The struggle for gay rights legitimately belongs to the ongoing effort to realize the inherent promise of American democracy.


**Warren Johansson**

**Lawrence, David Herbert (1885—1930)**

English novelist, poet, critic, and painter. Born in a mining area of Nottinghamshire, Lawrence derived much of the problematic of his work from the tension between his coalminer father, representing for him the physical and the elemental, and his mother, a former schoolteacher, who stood for the world of higher culture, politeness, and civilization. Having attended a two-year teacher training course in Nottingham (his only higher education), Lawrence wrote two early novels, *The White Peacock* (1911) and *The Trespasser* (1912), while teaching at Croydon. In 1912 he eloped with the German-born Frieda von Richthofen Weekley, and the two led a bohemian life of wandering on the continent until the outbreak of World War I. During this period he wrote and published his first masterpiece, *Sons and Lovers* (1913), an intensely autobiographical novel.

The war years were ones of exceptional strain for the Lawrences, whose patriotism was challenged. In 1914 he published a short story entitled "The Prussian Officer," which dwells on the sadomasochistic potential of a relationship between an older male and his subordinate in the context of a mood that blamed "Prussian militarism" for the conflict. During this period the novelist interacted with the Bloomsbury circle, and found the sexual nonconformity of the group disturbing. Nonetheless, Lawrence became acquainted with the draft of E. M. Forster's homosexual novel *Maurice* (written in 1913, but not published until 1971), and on it he later modeled his own heterosexual novel of erotic frankness, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (1928), which for a considerable time was available to the general public only in an expurgated version. Lawrence had been earlier influenced by the homosexual theorist Edward Carpenter, and by Walt Whitman, one of Carpenter's major sources.
Women in Love (1921) has, despite the title, an extraordinary emphasis on the male love affair (though it is non-generically expressed) between the wealthy Gerald Crich and the schoolteacher Rupert Birkin. These aspects were further explored in the “Prologue” to the book, which Lawrence withheld from publication. The theme of male bonding is treated in a less satisfactory political context in Kangaroo (1923), which is set mainly in Australia.

Throughout Lawrence’s later wanderings in Italy, Mexico, and New Mexico he struggled to achieve what he regarded as a proper balance in his relation with Frieda. The sexual theories presented in his prose writings reveal the impress of Sigmund Freud, though mingled with remnants of Victorian prudery. As late as 1929 he asserted that “masturbation is the deepest and most dangerous cancer of our civilization.” In his paintings, however, he strove to capture images of “phallic consciousness.” Having lived a life that was consistent in its intense productivity, Lawrence died of tuberculosis at the age of 44.

After World War II the eloquent advocacy of the critic F. R. Leavis brought the reputation of D. H. Lawrence to its zenith. A number of his works were filmed in a richly colored style that created the image of Edwardian opulence for the later twentieth century. Some have noted that the admiration for the primitive and irrational in Lawrence’s work sometimes borders on fascism, and that he seems in some respects to have been an intellectual who turned on the intellect itself because of his failure of self-acceptance and integration. Although Leavis and others have hailed him as a model of sexual sanity, his inability to come to terms with the strong homosexual component in his essentially bisexual makeup renders his example problematic.


Wayne R. Dynes
like the leper, he felt forgiveness was impossible, which made him foreswear decent living. Afraid of himself, of his obstinate will, he chose the path of degradation and the shackling of his soul, looking for security in submission. He went into the armed forces (1923–35) as a kind of mental suicide, in the hope of becoming an ordinary man. Colonel Lawrence enlisted as a private in the Royal Air Force as John Hume Ross and later as T. E. Shaw. But publicity followed him, which led to reclusive intervals, transfers, and a two-year stay in the Tank Corps. Unfortunately he could not escape himself: he remained “a unicorn strayed amongst sheep.” Aimless and failing to find rest, because he could not reach the ideal standard which was an absolute in his life, he was killed in a motorcycle accident just two months after he left the RAF.

Lawrence’s life can be seen as a continuous battle between mind and body. Thanks to puritan upbringing by his dominating mother, sexuality became associated with guilt and sin, humiliation and pain, and with a loss of integrity. Everything bodily had to be suppressed, a belief that led him to asceticism. His obsessive self-control was shattered in pain and fear when he was tortured and raped by the Turks, and led to a loss of his “citadel of integrity” and his “crown of manhood.” The desire he felt at that time was like an inner demon which had betrayed him, and this made penance necessary. Chastisement by young men was the humiliating punishment he inflicted on himself, but this was probably also the only way to release his sexuality without loss of integrity, because pain neutralized the enjoyment and purified the soul (“only our pain is never masquerade”). Distrust and fear of himself and others made real intimacy almost impossible.

Instead there were many male friendships. Men were less emotional and possessive than women, and therefore more trustworthy and facile as company, and also their bodies appealed more to his sense of beauty. He idealized Middle Eastern intimate friendships between men, which in his eyes showed perfect love because they were spiritual relations above all, even if sexuality entered: “friends quivering together in the yielding sand with intimate hot limbs in supreme embrace, found there hidden in the darkness a sensual co-efficient of the mental passion which was souls and spirit in one flaming effort.” The only time he came close to a friendship like this was with Dahum (1896–1918), an Arab boy he met at Carchemish, with whom he had a very intimate, but probably nonsexual, relationship for three years. But Dahum died of typhus at the end of the war, just before Lawrence had a chance to see him again, “and now not anywhere will I find rest and peace.” After the rape at Dar’a it became even more difficult to open himself for another, and, like many others in the army, he spent life “in the enforced celibacy of their blanket’s harsh embrace.”


Maarten Schild

LEADBETTER, CHARLES WEBSTER (1854–1934)

English clergyman and occultist. Although in later life he liked to romanticize his early circumstances, Leadbeater was born to ordinary lower-middle-class parents in Stockport. Unable to attend university, he nonetheless obtained orders
in the Church of England through a family connection. He then became curate of a village church, attending to the usual everyday round of parish duties. Chafing under the limitations of his appointment, he turned for stimulation to the High Anglican tradition (which appealed through its colorful liturgy and vestments) and to the then fashionable enthusiasm for spiritualism and the occult. He also showed an interest in several parish boys, instructing them in spiritualist practices.

In 1883 Leadbeater took the decisive step of joining the London lodge of the Theosophical Society, in whose ranks he rose rapidly. The following year Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, who had founded the society in 1875, invited him to travel with her to India, necessitating his resignation from his parish post. During the voyage, the imperious Blavatsky found the shy ex-curate an apt pupil, and she awakened interests in him that were the foundation for his later claims of clairvoyance, spirit communication with the “Masters,” knowledge of past lives of himself and others, and even the ability to see the inner structure of atoms.

For the following few years, he toiled at the hard work of gaining converts to Theosophy in Sri Lanka and south India. After Blavatsky’s death in 1891, Leadbeater linked up with her heir, Annie Besant, one of the most powerful personalities of the later Victorian age, and the two formed a durable, though Platonic partnership. Besant’s eloquence and resourcefulness were several times severely tested when she found herself called upon to extricate her associate from scrapes resulting from his adventures in teaching sexual magic to boy pupils. The most notable incident of this kind was Leadbeater’s 1909 proclamation that an attractive Brahmin boy, Krishnamurti, was destined to become the future Maitreya (world savior). But the boy’s father, who failed to appreciate this great honor, sued to get his son back and a major court battle followed.

In the meantime Leadbeater, always a prolific writer, had composed a series of popular books explaining the principles of Theosophy to lay people. Perhaps the most influential of these was Thought-Forms (1901; written in collaboration with Besant). This little book was illustrated with colored diagrams of auras and “thought-forms,” many of which are in fact abstract paintings executed by assistants following Leadbeater’s instructions. The images had a catalytic effect on such artists as Vasily Kandinsky and Piet Mondrian, so that Leadbeater may justly be regarded as the godfather of abstract art.

By the outbreak of World War I a senior Theosophist, but ever restless, Leadbeater spent most of his later life in Australia, where he turned first to Freemasonry and then, surprisingly, back to Christianity. In Sydney in 1916 he founded the Liberal Catholic Church, an institution that claimed apostolic succession through consecration from an associate who had in turn obtained his orders from an Old Catholic bishop. What engaged Leadbeater in this enterprise was not so much its theology, but the chance to work out elaborate rituals and to design rich vestments. Ever loyal, Besant gave her blessing, and Bishop Leadbeater now had a little religious kingdom all his own.

Claiming that his weak heart required constant monitoring, he insisted on having a boy with him at all times, even in the bath, so that a signal for help could be given. Increasingly reclusive in his later years, the Bishop gained a reputation among the residents of Sydney as the “swish bish.” Although the Liberal Catholic Church subsequently acquired more conventional leadership and atmosphere, the original foundation has a claim to the honor of the first gay church.

Leadbeater’s religious odyssey was marked by many unexpected twists and, some would say, a strong admixture of charlatanism. Unbeknownst to himself, however, he constitutes a link in a
chain that leads back to the tribal berdache and shaman figures, and forward to the involvement of gay men and lesbians in “new age” religion with its interest in channeling, new rituals, and discovery of special powers. More broadly, Leadbeater’s popularization of such ideas as auras, vibrations, and reincarnation played a significant role in the Aquarian revival of the occult that began in the 1960s.


Wayne R. Dynes

LEAR, EDWARD (1812-1888)

English painter, humorist, and travel writer. A delicate child, Lear was raised by his older sisters who tended to inculcate in him feminine rather than masculine pursuits and hobbies. At the age of five or six he had his first attack of epilepsy—the “Demon” as he called it—an affliction which was then little understood and not yet controllable by drugs. This ever-present problem, which he never avowed even to his closest friends, caused him to be cautious and reclusive in his relations with others.

In his teens Lear found employment as an ornithological illustrator; his achievements in this field are still admired today. In 1837, however, he went to live in Rome, where he supported himself by painting landscapes and giving drawing lessons to members of the English colony. In Rome he began a series of close friendships with fellow artists and visiting aristocrats. In 1846 Lear published his first Book of Nonsense, under the pseudonym Derry Down Derry. In 1848 he began two decades of travel in Greece, Palestine, and Egypt, settling finally in San Remo, Italy (1870). He tried unsuccessfully to persuade a teenager, Hubert Congreve, to come and live with him in his villa in the Italian resort. In his last years Lear became almost a total recluse, his society consisting of his manservant and his beloved cat Foss.

Although Lear’s paintings have recently gained renewed appreciation, it is for his nonsense limericks and songs that he is best remembered. Recoiling from the earnest atmosphere of evangelical Christianity in which he had been raised, Lear sought to puncture its pretensions with gentle spoofery. The nonsense also served to create a kind of utopian retreat, which was important for a man who felt that he must conceal both his epilepsy and his homosexuality.

Lear never married—and his one effort to do so was managed in such a way as to guarantee failure. He cherished passionate friendships with men, but his ardor was seldom returned with the intensity that he wished. Upon his death, one of his closest friends, his literary executor Franklin Lushington, destroyed many of his papers, apparently because they contained compromising material. Awkward, asthmatic, and retiring, Lear was aware of his social deficits. “Some think him ill-tempered and queer,” he wrote of himself. Although he did not mean the last adjective in its current sense, its full range probably applies to him. Out of the depths of his afflictions, however, Lear was able to generate the writings that have made him immortal.


Wayne R. Dynes

LEE, VERNON (1856-1935)

Pen name of Violet Paget, short story writer and essayist dealing with aesthetics, art history, and travel. Long neglected, her work is being revived in the 1980s, with reprints of her greatest short stories anticipated in the near future.

Lee was a child prodigy with a good background in European languages.
As a child in Italy she was a close friend of John Singer Sargent, and throughout her life she continued to have significant encounters with prominent figures of her day. Not a great success at keeping friends, Lee was shunned by members of the British aesthetic movement after the publication of her novel, the satirical and feminist Miss Brown (1884). Later she had a major falling out with Henry James, who felt he was satirized in her story "Lady Tal." Bernard Berenson discussed aesthetics with her in Florence, but this also led to a major misunderstanding. A friend and follower of Walter Pater, she wrote stories that combined decadent themes, aestheticism, and a concern for morality in a striking blend, enriched by an excellent sense of style. A pacifist during World War I, she took an unpopular stand that lost her readers in her last two decades.

Lee's voluminous papers have become available to scholars in recent years. One can now read her letters to her companion (1887–98), Kit Anstruther-Thomson. As Lee had not made her private life public, investigation of her papers may aid scholars trying to relate aesthetic formalism, decadence, and homosexuality in the 1880–1914 period.

Lee's best work is found in her approximately two dozen short stories, some of which are collected in Hauntings (1890), Vanitas (1892), Pope Jacynth (1904), and For Maurice (1927). Her truly remarkable fantastic tales include "Prince Aberbic and the Snake Lady," "The Virgin of the Seven Daggers," "Dionea," "Amour Dure," "A Wicked Voice," and "Oke of Okehurst."


Peter G. Christensen

LEFT, GAY

It is widely believed that there is a special affinity between the political left and homosexuality, more particularly between the left and the organized gay movement. Gay leftists have promoted the notion that capitalism has been especially homophobic, so that gay people as one of many oppressed strata of the population can only benefit from its overthrow. Yet this hope for improvement through revolution is belied by the status of homosexuals in Communist countries, which is generally worse than in the West; the gay communities there are denied the right to have organizations and periodicals of their own, even under the strict control of the Party. Moreover, homophobia is scarcely a special creation of capitalism but goes back to the first millennium B.C.—to the slave-holding societies of Near Eastern antiquity. And paradoxically enough, the militant atheism and the blanket condemnation of feudalism in Communist ideology did not lead to what might appear a logical conclusion: that the sanctions against homosexual behavior are the anachronistic legacy of the role of the church as arbiter of morality under the Old Regime, and as such should be repudiated by the new. Be this as it may, in day-to-day experience the gay/left affinity has been underlined by the high visibility of left-based gays and lesbians in the movement—actual numbers are fairly small—and by some undeniable theoretical contributions, especially from Marxism.

Main Trends. The roots of the modern left lie in the eighteenth century: in the anthropocentric materialism of Enlightenment thought and in the radical practice of the French Revolution. From the Enlightenment, the "party of humanity," the left inherited a commitment to fight oppression and injustice wherever they may appear. Moreover, concern with human happiness must be universal rather than directed to one nation or segment of society. That these ideals have, as often as not, been honored more in the breach than
in the observance, does not make them less worthy of respect. The Revolution that began in 1789 remains the archetype of the massive transformation that many leftists assume is the only remedy for society's ills. It was the French Revolution that abolished France's sodomy laws in 1791. Yet the full range of leftist thought does not emerge until the nineteenth century, when three strands may be discerned.

The first strand is the utopian, which looked to the creation of new communities in which social harmony and cooperation would replace competition as the motor of human association. The Scottish philanthropist Robert Owen (1771-1858) attempted to set up model communities, but his principal legacy is the cooperative movement. The eccentric Charles Fourier (1772-1837), who also designed model communities, was one of the few thinkers of this formative period to emphasize sex. Indeed, his utopian phalansteries were to provide for homosexual as well as heterosexual relations. The chief bequest of the utopian trend to today's gay movement is the commune, though this also absorbed elements of the ecology and "New Age" spirituality movement.

The second strand is anarchism, which has several aspects. There was the individualist anarchism of Max Stirner (1805-1856), which was later promoted by the boy-love thinker John Henry Mackay (1864-1933). The Russian Mikhail Bakunin (1814-1876) advocated violent overthrow of the state, and became a principal competitor of Marx, while his fellow Russian Peter Kropotkin (1842-1921) emphasized cooperation and mutual aid. Probably the chief legacy of anarchism to the modern gay movement lies in the commune and "New Age" homosexuality.

The final strand is socialism proper, which may in turn be divided into Marxism and Social Democracy. Marx and Engels rarely gave much sustained thought to sexuality, a matter which they seem to have regarded as distinctly subordinate to the question of the relations of production, the economic base that for them represents the grounding of all other sociocultural phenomena. Their occasional pronouncements on same-sex love are homophobic, and in any event only in the twentieth century did an organized sexual reform movement emerge, some of whose theoreticians sought to create syntheses of Marxism and feminism, Marxism and gay liberation. The Social Democratic trend owes much to the English tradition of gradual and measured change. An outstanding figure in this tradition is Edward Carpenter (1844-1929), who created a kind of gay commune at his farm in Milthorpe. His writings drew upon a number of sources, including Walt Whitman and Indian thought. They were widely read not only in the English-speaking world, but also in translation on the European continent. In Germany Social Democracy gained a strong footing in the Reichstag (Parliament), and its leaders, beginning with August Bebel (1840-1913), threw their support behind the campaign for homosexual law reform. Although they were not successful at that time, it is significant that most of the reforms of the sodomy laws in Western Europe since 1930 have been achieved under Social Democratic regimes.

Toward the Present. The acute crisis signaled by the world depression of the 1930s caused many to seek solutions either in socialism or in Soviet-style communism. Because of pressing material problems, as well as actual persecution in the Nazi holocaust, the thirties were a period of occultation of the gay movement. When the American homosexual rights movement emerged in Southern California in 1950, a number of its founders had Communist party backgrounds. The rise of McCarthyism forced this trend underground, and leftist affiliations in the gay movement were to surface later in a very different guise, under the aegis of the counterculture and the New Left. Some
theorists saw the gay movement as forming part of a "rainbow alliance" of oppressed groups, especially women and peoples of color. In leftist politics, however, the gay movement did not receive a uniformly cordial welcome. The factions oriented toward Moscow, Peking, and Havana all rejected gay liberation just as the parties to which they looked for guidance in their own countries maintained or even intensified the traditional sanctions against homosexuality. In Western countries much leftist activity amounted to little more than "statementism," the issuing of ringing manifestoes and the passing of whole laundry lists of demands. When this rhetoric failed to lead to action, as was usually the case, adherents began to wonder whether those issuing the statements really wished to achieve meaningful change.

As hopes for revolution—or even radical incremental change—faded in the 1970s, most politically oriented gay men and lesbians sought to "work within the system." In the United States this meant participation not only in the Democratic party, with its traditional though sometimes problematic policy of welcoming minorities, but also in the Republican party. The excitement of the New Left phase of gay politics had obscured a fundamental fact: the political affiliations of gay men and lesbians, distributed as they are all across the socio-economic spectrum, generally mirror those of the society at large. Also, in practice the candidate who stands too far to the left—who embraces both economic and social radicalism—is likely to find himself cut off from any major constituency, while the centrist in economic matters can more easily embrace such a cause as gay rights in sections of the country where much of the population is conservative in religion or simply clings to the traditional prejudices. The need of any aspiring movement in the United States to win over the center in order to gain majorities at the polls precludes a political strategy grounded solely in the patronage of the left.

These problems were underscored by experiences in Britain in the 1980s, where sectors of the Labour Party were tarred in the media as the "loony left," in large measure because of their principled support for gay rights. Unfortunately this Labourite support has involved denunciations of "heterosexism," and such critiques are easily misconstrued as put-downs of heterosexual persons. Not surprisingly, the situation has been opportunistically exploited both by those against the left and those [some of them within the left itself] opposed to homosexual rights.

In all likelihood the best strategy for homosexuals and lesbians in any pluralistic society is to function as an interest group, contracting alliances according to a realistic assessment of advantages, and disclaiming any permanent attachment to any one political grouping.

Wayne R. Dynes

LEGAL PROCEDURE

Over the years lawyers in the American system of justice have come to recognize that it is best to observe certain procedures in serving gay and lesbian clients. At the outset of a prosecution for sodomy or some other homosexual offense, bailment or release on one's own recognizance should be sought to avoid persecution and rape in jail. If no dismissal is obtained, no demurrer filed, and no continuance requested, the defendant or his attorney must enter a plea at the arraignment. A plea of guilty or nolo contendere [no contest] ends the process that a plea of innocence would continue to a trial. Often the judge indicates his intended sentence and the prosecutor his recommendation before the plea so that the defendant and his counsel may determine the consequences of the plea. Also the sealing of the arrest records, changing an arrest to a detention, or the expungement of the judgment might be negotiated in
advance. The attorney tries to shop for a favorable forum though continuances and waiving rights for a speedy trial, to pick a judge known for clemency, and to select challenges a sympathetic jury. The defendant’s excellent character, community contributions, and good prior record should be emphasized to combat homophobia, prejudice, and biases. To secure a plea bargain the defendant must waive, often in writing, his constitutional rights and protections, including a speedy public trial with counsel before a judge or jury, the right to remain silent without self-incrimination, to confront, cross-examine, and subpoena witnesses, among others. Popular amended pleas bargained for include misdemeanors or mere infractions such as disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, and trespassing.

The differences in the maze of U.S. jurisdictions, municipal as well as state, render all precedents problematic and emphasize the need for experienced and erudite counsel. Often convictions under municipal ordinances do not appear on the criminal record of the defendant, such as a small fine satisfying a prosecutor of public nudity, remaining in a public place after closing time, and the like. Continuance for six months or some other period of time in contemplation of dismissal in view of good conduct is more common in eastern than in western states. Some prosecutors allow “office hearings” instead of court appearances. Diversion from the courts to therapy or rehabilitation programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous is often allowed. Prior convictions and probation violations, demonstrable only by a preponderance of evidence, render alternative processes more difficult. Paroles stipulating that the defendant stay out of public restrooms or avoid social contact with homosexuals may, however, be overturned as too sweeping.

Reviewing the police report, interviewing witnesses, visiting the scene of the crime, assessing the facts about location and action to demonstrate the imposibility of particular allegations, and enticement and entrapment with the vice squad member’s entreaties often result in a winning defense. For a gay client, however, it is often difficult to prove lack of predisposition. A discovery motion or its alternative the subpoena ducēs tecum seeks to obtain evidence and knowledge in the possession of the prosecutor or his witnesses, such as previous abuse and brutality by the vice squad member or other evidence of his prejudice to discredit his testimony or to indicate discriminatory enforcement. Codes and freedom of information acts aid in gaining such defenses. Destruction of evidence may allow dismissal.

Change of venue, refusal of a certain prosecutorial office or a bill of particulars alleging the ambiguity of a statute, suppression of illegally obtained evidence, a forced confession, or improper identification in a lineup, double jeopardy, disqualification of a particular prosecutor or judge are among the many legitimate ploys. Current normal practices within the jurisdiction, old common law remedies, and creative arguments all justify such motions. Independent witnesses such as psychiatrists and sociologists, independent investigators, and visual aids help the court understand the homosexual’s situation.

Waiving the right to trial by jury gives away the possibilities of a hung jury, the defense attorney’s plea to the jury, and the judge’s misinstructing the jury. In the voir dire process an attorney can not only challenge prospective jurors “for cause” but educate the ones selected about law and justice, and at times even suggest that favorable ones stick to their guns and not go along with majority pressure in the hope of getting a hung jury. Judges, however, are at times less biased and more acute than juries, and waiving of them saves time and money. All these items must be considered in response. Motions in limine limit in advance the nature and extent of questions that may be put to
certain witnesses, thus diminishing the need for objections, for example, about the sexual orientation or preference of the defendant, his prior offenses, and prior complaints about him.

Instruction to the jury should include reasonable doubt, presumption of innocence, burden of proof, specific intent, and credibility of witnesses. The judge's refusal to instruct properly per request of the defense constitutes an irreversible error and hence allows an appeal. An effective summation in the closing argument weaving together the case by use of notes taken throughout the trial to prove the theory of the defense and rebutting the prosecution often wins acquittal.

After the trial many jurisdictions require the defense attorney to have the court correct any error in a pre-sentencing or pre-judgment motion, while failure to do so may result in the waiving of the alleged error and thus the loss of an opportunity to appeal. Evidence in support of a plea for a mild sentence should be proffered. Probation officers, usually overworked, should be won over to recommend clemency, especially in view of the overcrowded jails and their negative effects on inmates. Alternate sentencing should be sought, such as work furloughs, weekend incarceration, and community service. Obligation to register as a sex offender should be resisted.

See also Law, United States.


William A. Percy

LEONARDO DA VINCI (1452–1519)

Italian painter, sculptor, architect, scientist, inventor, and thinker. One of a little band of truly universal men of the Renaissance, Leonardo's multiple creativity, in all its vastness and intricacy, still offers a stunning challenge to modern interpreters.

Born in Vinci, the illegitimate son of a Florentine notary, Leonardo was taken away from his mother shortly after birth and given to his paternal grandparents to bring up. He was then apprenticed to the Florentine painter Andrea del Verrocchio, whom he seems to have quickly surpassed—to the point that Verrocchio is said to have given up painting in disgust. In 1476, while he was still living at Verrocchio's house, he had an anonymous accusation of homosexuality lodged against him. He was said to have had, along with three others (one a Medici), active homosexual relations with a seventeen-year-old model. Eventually the prosecution was dropped, but not until after the accused had become frightened. This evidence shows that the young Leonardo was well acquainted with the flourishing "sodomite" subculture of quattrocento Florence.

In the 1470s his insatiable curiosity led him to investigate the fundamentals of art, as seen in his studies of drapery and oil painting. Such early works as the Madonna in Munich and the portrait of Ginevra de' Benci in Washington astonished contemporaries with their naturalism.

The year 1493 found Leonardo in Milan, where he did a portrait of the mistress of duke Lodovico il Moro. He then did the two versions of Virgin of the Rocks, showing his remarkable mastery of detail. In the field of sculpture he made studies for a huge equestrian statue of the previous duke, Francesco Sforza, but the group was never executed. His major work in Milan is the celebrated Last Supper mural in Santa Maria delle Grazie, which sums up more than a century of efforts by Italian artists to come to terms with this complex problem in composition, psychology, and iconography. Unfortunately Leonardo executed the work in an experimental fresco technique and, despite the efforts of generations of restorers, today the mural is only a ruin, though an exceedingly eloquent one. His work in Milan inspired a host of imitators, including the gifted Sodoma.
After the French invasion of Milan in 1499 Leonardo returned to Florence, where he found employment as a military engineer for Cesare Borgia. He also took great interest in dissection and anatomy, attending (among other things) to the mechanisms of coitus and reproduction. His major fresco project of this period, a state commission to commemorate a victory which pitted him against the young Michelangelo, was never completed—again because he insisted on using an experimental medium that could not be continued beyond the central group (1503–05). He also grappled with the compositional problem of the Madonna and Child with Saint Anne, which resulted in several works, notably the cartoon in the National Gallery in London. One of his few finished works of this period is his portrait, known as the Mona Lisa, now in the Louvre in Paris, which owes its enduring fascination in large measure to Leonardo's mastery of the sfumato technique, permitting him to envelop sitter and background in an air of impenetrable mystery.

In 1507 Leonardo entered the service of the French king Louis XII—at first in Milan and in Rome, and then in France itself. He spent much of this last period of his life in scientific pursuits and architectural designs, liberally supported by the French court. He also revised and extended his voluminous writings—8,000 manuscript pages have survived—including a treatise on painting, which was only published in 1651. His last work was the androgynous St. John now in the Louvre. Venerated by everyone who knew him, he died at Cloux near Amboise in a chateau bestowed by the king.

Over the centuries Leonardo's genius has attracted a variety of interpreters. In a controversial study of 1910 Sigmund Freud tried to throw light on the artist's homosexuality through a recollection of childhood in which Leonardo imagined his mouth assaulted by the wings of the bird. Misled by an error of translation, Freud believed the bird to have been a vulture, rather than the kite (nibbio) of Leonardo's description. This and other errors vitiate Freud's essay, and his failure has discouraged others from venturing much further. Although Leonardo was devoted to a scamp-like assistant, Salai, and later to a young aristocrat, Francesco Melzi, whom he adopted, not much is known about his emotional life. His practice of making his notes in a mirror writing that casual snoops could not read shows that his instinct for concealment was well developed. In an age in which artists—and many others—were relatively forthright about their sexual tastes, Leonardo felt an instinctive need to guard his privacy. Grounded in his illegitimacy, as it surely is, this reclusiveness has other wellsprings that cannot now be gauged. In this realm, as in others, Leonardo transcended his own age, producing endless food for thought and study on the part of each generation of scholars. In addition, Leonardo has captured the attention and affection of the general public, which he is surely destined to keep through all subsequent shifts of the whirligig of fashion.


Wayne R. Dynes

**LESBIAN SEPARATISM**

*See Separatism, Lesbian.*

**LESBIANISM**

What is lesbianism: a predetermined state, a preference, affectional and/or sexual in nature, a political choice? Moreover, is it an aberration, a playing out of male/female roles by men-hating women, an adolescent or immature phase?

Serious research in the field of lesbian behavior is relatively recent and remains uneven in coverage. Nonetheless, studies in the United States have yielded a
LESBIANISM

relatively comprehensive description. For this reason, the present article limits itself to that country. Future research, it is hoped, will provide data affording a more global perspective on lesbianism.

Varying Definitions. At various points in the development of thought on this topic, experts, advocates and opponents alike have used some of the above descriptions. For some, lesbianism remains a state of awareness of self experienced at an early age: one realizes a difference, an attraction to women. Proponents of this view say that they always knew that they were lesbians. For them, there was no choice: they were lesbians and they had to follow their inclination.

For others, lesbianism is a political choice, a conscious rejection of the patriarchy, of traditional roles for women, of limitations placed on women's control of their own lives. It is a conscious embrace by women of women as their primary emotional, erotic, and spiritual attachments. For these lesbians, their involvement with women may have begun at a later age, stemming from a feminist consciousness, or it may have, in fact, started much earlier and been reinforced through activity in the women's movement.

Regardless of the definition of "born lesbian" or "political lesbian," lesbianism has both emotional and sexual components. There are those who would attribute these characteristics according to gender roles within a lesbian couple. If the lesbian couple mimics heterosexual couples, the reasoning goes, one woman must be "fem" or more emotional/feminine in nature, and the other "butch" or more sexual/masculine in nature. Research has shown that less than twenty percent of lesbians engage in role playing of this kind.

Those who adhere to the belief that homosexuality is an "arrested stage of development" are greatly influenced by Freud and Victorian mores. Because of this background, homosexuality was classified as a mental illness until 1973, when psychiatrists and other mental health professionals supported by the work of lesbian and gay activists fought to have homosexuality [as an illness] removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders [DSM]. Etiological studies had shown that experts could not prove what made the homosexual different and that, therefore, he/she had no scientifically diagnosable sickness or deviance.

Detractors will always find an authority to validate the claim that lesbianism is an aberration. Some religious leaders and biblical scholars have found "proof" for the condemnation of homosexuality. Just as many scholars have retranslated and reinterpreted the same quotations to show that it was the acts (hetero- and/or homosexual) of adultery, jealousy, inhospitality, and so forth, that were being condemned and not homosexuals. Likewise, sodomy remains a crime in many American states.

Lesbian History. Why has there been such a great effort to define lesbianism as a crime or a sickness? And why is there an effort to trivialize it as only a sexual liaison or, in fact, to blot out its mention totally? Given the paucity of material available on lesbianism, is lesbianism just a product of twentieth-century America, surfacing more rampantly since the 1960s and in certain bohemian urban centers?

There has been an almost total obliteration of the lesbian in history. Those who study Greek civilization and culture learn about Sappho and the women on the isle of Lesbos. Yet few strong women, independent of men, and attached to other women, stand out in our historical texts. When such a figure does appear, she is never identified as a lesbian. This "conspiracy of silence" has kept role models and the potential threat to patriarchy under control. Only when intimate friendship between women was combined with women's growing financial independence toward the beginning of the twentieth century was this age-old bonding con-
Lesbianism

4 Lesbianism has been condemned. What mention remains is that of a stereotypical, lonely, lewd, man-like woman who frequents seedy bars and seeks to seduce nubile girls.

The Kinsey Report on female sexuality (1953) helped somewhat to dispel this notion. No longer was the homosexual so foreign and remote from the heterosexual. The report found that the sexuality of those sampled lay on a continuum ranging from completely heterosexual through somewhat homosexual to completely homosexual. Accordingly, ten percent of the population could be assumed to be essentially homosexual, with a possibility of a considerably higher proportion of the population having engaged in homosexual behavior at one point or another.

Despite this beginning "normalization" of homosexuality, some lesbian theorists still referred to "pre-1950s" and "post-1950s" lesbians. Those of the earlier period are classified as less political, lacking role models, and committed to role playing. One dressed "butch" or "fem" and frequented bars which tolerated homosexuals. Socializing took place in private clubs or among friends, homosexual men and lesbian women. "Post-1950s" lesbians tended to be more open, politicized, and not involved in role playing. Moreover, as of 1969, a new legitimacy was being claimed by gay men and lesbians. The contemporary struggle for gay rights was begun by gay men at the Stonewall bar in New York. Furthermore, feminism supplied the philosophical base to lesbianism.

In light of this absence from history, an effort is being made to write and preserve lesbian history. Lesbian history groups exist; individual lesbians record and exhibit/present their stores of information; archives preserve books, articles and photographs. Lesbians are at work retracing their roots, finding in history a visible reference group.

Lesbian identity. It is this group of strong, independent women which reflects a positive identity for the lesbian and the world to see. Where stigma is removed from a minority group, the group becomes a viable functioning part of society. It also represents a real choice as opposed to the illusion of choice which many lesbian theorists claim is inherent in the "heterosexual preference." If there are no positive images of lesbianism, no role models, no mention of homosexuality, then "heterosexual" women do not have to ask themselves if they are lesbians. If there is nothing but a stigmatized stereotype, then heterosexual women do not dare question a preference. This assumption of heterosexuality, unless one announces one's lesbianism, is what theorists label "heterosexism." It reinforces the absence of lesbianism and eliminates the need for any choice while leaving the illusion of choice of sexual preference. In essence, heterosexism is the way a patriarchal system has of preserving itself.

It is just this stigma and heterosexism which make it difficult for lesbians to know who they are, to come to a healthy sense of identity. This is what is known as coming out, reaching an awareness and an acceptance of self as a lesbian and, as a result, letting others know about this lesbian identity.

Coming out is a lengthy process involving one's inner and outer reality. Some lesbians are merely aware of a feeling of difference at an early age. Some know that it is an attraction to women. Either way, it entails a comparison of oneself to images of lesbians and to known lesbians, along with an attempt at putting together the way one sees oneself with these external images. Most often, the lesbian struggles against the stereotypical view of a lesbian. Frequently, she attempts to hide her feelings and inclinations because she is "not like them." In order to accept oneself as normal, it is necessary to recognize oneself in other lesbians by getting to know the variety of types within the lesbian world. The lesbian may have already entered into sexual relations with
another woman during this process, or she may have refrained from actual physical involvement until she felt more comfortable. Total comfort with one's lesbian identity usually comes after involvement in one or more relationships. The ability to totally disclose one's lesbian identity generally signifies that one has fully accepted this identity. Some would say that along with this acceptance comes a generalized sensitization to one's oppression and alienation at the hands of a patriarchal society.

How does the lesbian view herself? Is she first and foremost a lesbian and then an amalgam of different personality traits that constitute her person? Does her difference lie solely in her sexuality or in her spiritual bonding with other women?

It is often difficult for a lesbian to establish a healthy balance between her "lesbian identity" and her "personal identity." As a member of a stigmatized minority group, she needs the security of the community, the reference group, in order not to feel isolated. Yet, among lesbians there is a tendency to internalize stigma, the self-hate and the powerlessness inherent in minority groups and, then, seeing this stigma mirrored in her equals, a tendency to reject them.

The fear of rejection by the group is very strong and creates a conflict for a lesbian. If she is being accepted in the lesbian world exclusively because of her lesbian activity, must she, therefore, subordinate her personal identity to this lesbian identity? Whereas, in the heterosexual world, she will be rejected exclusively because of her lesbian identity. The lesbian must, therefore, constantly assert her personal identity to avoid its being assumed into a group identity. Without this, individuality suffers, and one can become merged with the group.

While maintaining a healthy balance of her personal and her lesbian identity, and thereby, of autonomy and merger with the lesbian community, the lesbian struggles to integrate the various facets of her lesbianism. In her interaction with others, she draws together the affectional and sexual. Her difference from heterosexuals does not lie solely in her sexuality. Nor can one deny her sexuality and see only emotional bonding. Both perspectives have been promulgated by the heterosexual world to trivialize the way the lesbian relates as an integrated person to another woman.

Minorities Among Lesbians. The balance of personal and lesbian identity is all the more complicated for lesbians who are non-white, working class, aging, young, differently-abled ("handicapped"), or rural. Here, the lesbian also belongs to another group where she may have the additional conflict of whether to assert herself first as a black person, for example, and then as a lesbian. Many lesbians of color and Third World lesbians feel they must subordinate their lesbian identity to their racial/ethnic identity. Many non-white groups who view homosexuality as white society's disease see it as a form of genocide of their ethnic/racial group. In many of these groups, then, there exists a greater conservatism which would call for ostracizing the lesbian from the community. Therefore, the lesbian of color may deny her lesbianism to survive in her reference group.

On the other hand, racism reflective of macrosociety pervades some lesbian communities. Here, the lesbian of color does not feel welcome. On the contrary, she may feel forced to remain in her ethnic/racial community and deny her lesbianism. Some have sought to separate themselves into all black, all Asian, and similar lesbian groups. Among those who define themselves as progressives, many hold that the struggle for lesbian rights can only advance the struggle for the rights of blacks, Asians, Latinas, native Americans, and so forth, and vice versa.

The struggle for lesbian youth, aging lesbians, and differently-abled lesbians is similar. These groups also face discrimination at the hands of the heterosexuals...
lesbian community. Aging lesbians may blend in among senior citizens or the differently-abled and then, not be seen as lesbians. Within the lesbian community, they may feel oppressed because of their "difference." A lesbian senior citizen, for example, can be denied access to nursing homes and retirement centers. If she is admitted, the administration will not accept her lover. To avail herself of services for senior citizens, in essence, she will probably be forced to deny her lesbianism or her lover.

Within the lesbian community, aging lesbians are often stereotyped as grandmothers or mothers to younger, more attractive lesbians. Activists attack the existence within the lesbian community of ageist attitudes prevalent in the heterosexual world. Ageism perpetuates the patriarchal attitude that only the young, attractive female is of use to society. Aging lesbians fear being cut off and pushed aside as are aging heterosexual women.

Similarly, lesbian youth do not have access to the rights and privileges of older lesbians. More than this, though, they remain on the outside of their heterosexual peer group since very often the "gayness" stands out vividly when youth tends to exaggerate stereotypes. Deprived of role models, many lesbian youth copy the negative images seen in the media. They face ostracism, harassment, and violence because of their difference. On the other hand, older lesbians are often loath to offer support, friendship, and shelter to lesbian youth because of the legalities involved owing to their status as minors.

Lesbian youth face even greater risk if they have run away or have been thrown out by their families. This happens frequently to rural youth. Foster homes and shelters will usually not accept openly lesbian youth. If forced out onto the street, they often turn to prostitution to survive. Here, too, they are subject to violence.

Differently-abled lesbians must, likewise, deal with a double oppression. They too may feel as if they must "choose their oppression." If they disclose their lesbianism within their differently-abled group, they risk being rejected because of their sexuality. Some able-bodied lesbians do not view differently-abled lesbians as sexual at all, thereby rejecting them. In other communities, an insufficient effort is made to accommodate the differently-abled at functions and centers.

Thus, for the lesbian who is not white, middle class, of average age, the oppression experienced as lesbian women in the heterosexual world is unfortunately also reflected in the lesbian community. When lesbians have been raised in an oppressive society and surrounded by stigma, there remains a residue of this stigma. One must constantly be aware of this internalized stigma and realize that the phenomena of oppression display similar patterns. In this, the lesbian community is beginning to make inroads in speaking out against all forms of oppression: racism, classism, ageism, and able-ism.

Who, then, is this individual lesbian? She is a woman who identifies herself with and as a woman for friendship, spirituality, erotic love. She is a member of a stigmatized minority with no officially accepted rights, no societal validation, no role models, no societally mirrored identity—in brief, with no officially sanctioned existence.

She is a woman of strengths despite her deprivation. Independent by the very nature of her choice to identify with women, she has had to stand up for her rights as an activist, a leader, or as a survivor. Coping with stigma, she has developed the skills to deal with prejudice and oppression and has learned to recognize social control in the multi-oppressive policies surrounding her.

Oppression. Yet what is the actual manifestation of the stigma surrounding the lesbian? Of what is she deprived, and how does it take its toll on her well-
being? What is homophobia, and is it only heterosexuals who are homophobic?

Homophobia lies at the root of the harassment, the violence, and the exclusion from the “protection under the law” experienced by lesbians and gay men. It is an exaggerated fear of homosexuality in oneself and in others. Because of this fear of one's potential “conversion” to homosexuality, the heterosexual directs his/her hostility outward onto homosexuals. It is a fear so abject that it would threaten one's belief in the family and in Western capitalism. As a result, atrocities, including murder, have been committed falsely using the name of god, law, and science as justification.

Yet, lesbian theorists have argued that homophobia is better examined as heterosexism. This is the assumption that every woman wants to be attached financially and emotionally to a man. Accordingly, everyone and everything is heterosexual and heterosexuality is a preference. This silencing of lesbianism arises from the fear of woman-bonding and woman's spirituality which, because of their power, pose a threat to man's power. Hence, capitalism must be protected by insuring patriarchal privilege through heterosexism.

The resulting oppression of lesbians [and gay men] begins with their civil rights—rights generally guaranteed to all Americans by the Bill of Rights and reiterated more specifically by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Yet there is no federal guarantee of rights to homosexuals, and fewer than sixty municipalities have ordinances of protection. Even as “liberal” a state as New York has no “gay rights” bill. Moreover, those gay rights bills which do exist merely prohibit discrimination in housing and employment on the basis of “sexual preference.” Other gay rights bills have set up a body to investigate claims of discrimination on the basis of “sexual preference” with no power to prosecute.

With so few structures in place to monitor or guarantee rights, instances of oppression run rampant. Lesbians are most at risk in the areas of work, custody, and health. Here, they experience discrimination both as women and as lesbians.

Work. Work for the lesbian is vital for her survival. Depending on self as the sole means of support, she must exercise vigilance concerning her lesbianism. In a traditional domain of male privilege, sexist advances may be one thing. However, a woman may be suspected of being a lesbian for as much, and supervised more stringently and found incompetent. Few companies or corporations have anti-discrimination policies, and if one does not work in a city with a gay rights bill, one has no recourse.

Work, however, plays a double role for a lesbian. The place of employment is also a social arena where it is, perhaps, easier than in other social situations to get to know other women. There is great risk involved here, since the lesbian may lose a potential friend, face harassment and ostracism once she discloses her lesbianism to her colleague. The friend may be heterosexual and fear that the lesbian is trying to seduce her. Then again, the friend may be a lesbian and both must seek a way of discovering the other's sexuality without alienation in case she is not a lesbian.

Certain types of employment are riskier than others. The military is a traditional area where one can be dismissed for homosexuality. Regardless of the type of work, lesbians have been discriminated against widely. Studies indicate that between twenty and twenty-four percent of the lesbians sampled have actually experienced discrimination on the job, and over sixty percent anticipate being fired, not employed, or passed over for promotion if their lesbianism is suspected. As a result, many lesbians experience higher levels of work-related stress. Working under conditions where one fears overzealous scrutiny, suspicion, and ultimately, the loss of one's job, the lesbian may be forced to deny any hint of her lesbianism. Inner conflict and lowered self-esteem often result.
In conjunction with work, insurance is also an area of discrimination. No provision is made for a partner in a long-term relationship. Medical benefits, for example, cannot be extended to cover a lover or a child one is co-parenting. Some forward-looking corporations and unions are attempting to have insurance companies extend coverage to “spouse equivalents.”

Custody. Another area where lesbians face almost total discrimination is child custody. The lesbian is virtually placed on trial for being an unfit woman and for challenging her ex-husband’s custodial rights. In custody law, judges are charged with examining the “best interests of the child.” What, in fact, is under scrutiny is the mother’s lesbianism. Most custody cases have resulted in the denial of custody to lesbian mothers or severe limitations to visitation rights: the mother’s lover may not be present, the child may not spend the night, and so forth. Despite expert witnesses, judges have consistently ruled in favor of the father or even for placement in institutions. The mother’s lesbianism is seen as utterly detrimental to the child.

Expert witnesses attempt to demonstrate the emotional and psychological well-being of the child. They focus their attention on the mothering received and the development of gender and sex roles. In studies, researchers have consistently found that there is no significant difference in the general emotional and psychological well-being of the children of lesbians as compared with those of heterosexual mothers. They urge the courts to look at the quality of the mothering involved, the relationship between mother and child, and the mother’s ability to foster growth in the child.

Concerning conflict over sexual identity, children of lesbians do not demonstrate sexual confusion. Researchers question how, if it were the mother’s intention to “convert,” “androgynous” features could be induced. These features include: self-assertiveness, independence, an ability to stand up for rights, leadership, and ambition. They agree that the acquisition of sex and gender roles is influenced by the total environment, including television and peers, rather than solely by the mother.

Actually, the studies have shown that children of lesbians may, in fact, be more flexible, independent, and aware of greater options in life. Moreover, they may profit from greater nurturing and support if they grow up in a household where the mother’s lesbian lover is present [as opposed to a male lover].

Since custody struggles have resulted in so few victories for lesbians, most progressive lawyers urge the lesbian mother to try to settle out of court. If, however, this is not possible, she is encouraged to retain a lawyer well-versed in this type of case. Decisions must be made concerning publicity and the presence of the mother’s lover in the house. Questions of visibility are important since judges often rule on the basis of the lesbian’s degree of notoriety.

Notoriety proves one of the stumbling blocks in the struggle for rights of lesbian mothers. Many lesbian activists and legal groups hesitate to take on custody causes because they might have to publicize the case in order to raise funds. Moreover, given the lack of precedence-setting in custody law and, therefore, the great degree of discretion with which judges rule, a success for an activist group is limited to that one case. A successful case may serve as a consciousness-raiser, but it will not influence future decisions.

Other legal struggles include custody of children by artificial insemination, legal guardianship, and will. To date, in most cases where a lesbian lover has been named upon the death of her partner, inheritances, custody, and rights of guardianship have been challenged. Many gay and lesbian lawyers volunteer their time to instruct gay men and lesbians in the use of the law.
Health. Similar to the legal world, the world of medicine has been the domain of men. Here, again, the lesbian must fight against discrimination to maintain her physical and emotional health. Many lesbians avoid using traditional physical and mental health facilities because of the inevitability of disclosing one's sexuality. Traditionally, lesbians have faced abuse at the hands of the mental health industry. Despite the removal of lesbianism as a disease from the standard manual in 1973, many mental health professionals continue to treat lesbianism as pathological.

Likewise, many physicians have either made the assumption that the lesbian is heterosexual or offered poor service upon discovering she was not. Gynecologists will often treat the lesbian as ignorant because she is not using birth control or unhealthy because she is not having intercourse with a man. Service is geared to women heterosexually active.

Because of this ignorance on the part of the doctor, medical mishaps have been known to happen. In one instance, a lesbian, wheeled into an emergency room, was assumed to be suffering from an ectopic pregnancy. If the treating physician had been aware of her lesbianism, he/she could have ruled out pregnancy and avoided a near-fatal delay in diagnosing a ruptured appendix. Similarly, less time would be spent examining for venereal disease (virtually non-existent in lesbians) and vaginal infections (less common).

Given the potentially hazardous situations resulting from the lack of a "sexual history," more appropriate service could be provided by the taking of just such a history. Lesbians, however, must feel comfortable and safe enough to give this history. In this, the choice of a physician is of utmost importance.

Additionally, other documents are necessary to prevent undue stress during illness. These would include physician's rights of attorney and living wills. Because of discriminatory policies in hospitals and in the medical arena, in general, the lover of a lesbian is barred from taking an active role in her partner's recovery or death. Intensive care units limit visitation to immediate family members. The lover's only guarantee of being allowed to visit and to share in decision-making is through the above-mentioned documents. Here, with the knowledge of the physician, the lesbian gives the lover the power to make medical decisions for her should she be incapacitated.

Alcoholism. Inappropriate or inadequate service by the medical world is a general symptom of homophobia. Yet, one witnesses the full impact of oppression and stigma when one examines the alcoholism and the need for psychotherapy among lesbians. The general silence surrounding these issues speaks more to a community's fear of further stigmatizing its members by admitting its vulnerabilities, than of denial.

Alcoholism stands out as a major health concern among lesbians. Statistically, between thirty and thirty-five percent of the lesbian community is troubled by alcohol abuse. This is about three times the national average for heterosexuals. Part of this high incidence may stem from the centrality of the bar within the lesbian community. Meeting place and center of entertainment, the bar has also served as a political focus and a hub of activity within the community.

However, the prime factor in viewing the lesbian as vulnerable to alcohol would seem to be her status as a member of a doubly stigmatized minority: she is a woman and a lesbian. Lowered self-esteem, anxiety, paranoia, spiritual and social alienation often characterize the emotional make-up of members of a minority group. Moreover, the lesbian has had to cope with her family's and society's denial of lesbianism or their portrayal of lesbianism as deviant and sinful. She has had to pretend that her feelings for women did not exist, or adapt to the stereotype of the isolated, role-playing deviant who could only find acceptance in seedy bars. She has learned
LESBIANISM

to pretend everything is all right, denying over a long period of time that she lives with stigma and alienation. Out of the resulting tendency to seek relief or instant gratification, the lesbian may come to trust in the security of the bottle.

Furthermore, the lesbian possesses many of the characteristics of those at high risk for chemical dependency. Research shows these individuals to be deficient in one or more of the following: identification with a viable role model, identification with responsibility for family processes, low faith in miraculous solutions to problems, adequate inter- and intra-personal skills, skills to deal with systems, and judgment skills. Thus, lesbians seem at greater risk because they experience lack of coping skills and competence, since they are often isolated from family, institutions, and people responsible for inculcating those same coping skills.

Participation in the lesbian community provides the means to bridge the isolation and the stigma. Responsible for the well-being of its members, the lesbian community offers alcohol-free spaces, alcohol education, and recreational opportunities which do not require alcohol. Perhaps its greatest act of responsibility lies in the breaking through of its own denial (that alcoholism is a major health problem in the lesbian community) to take an active role in combatting alcoholism.

More and more consciousness-raising groups and rap groups are addressing the issue of alcoholism. Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous and Adult Children of Alcoholics groups exist. Moreover, many lesbian (and gay) community centers have hired alcoholism counselors and have set up programs within the centers, while gay alcohol rehabilitation centers have already been established.

While the community can undertake some of the responsibility for service to its own members, society cannot be excused from its role. Programs sensitized to the needs of lesbians are still necessary. This need is especially felt in the area of psychotherapy. It is here that lesbians seek out insight into and healing for the stress related to living as a stigmatized minority in a hostile world.

_Psychotherapy._ Perhaps one of the most basic issues in psychotherapy for lesbians revolves around coming-out and self-image. Successful resolution reinforces a strong sense of self and a healthy identity. Lack of resolution would entail a form of identity crisis: self-hatred, withdrawal and underachievement, depression, self-victimization, and/or suicidal ideas.

Treatment focuses on self-definition. This process explores the feelings, images, needs, and roles involved in being a lesbian from the client's perspective. The therapist would also help the client mourn the loss of the former (non-lesbian) self, working through the denial of lesbianism and repression of feelings for women, and then, reconcile the negative stereotype of lesbians with the image one has of self. Building of coping mechanisms and empowering the client to deal with minority stress are also therapeutic interventions. The lesbian is particularly vulnerable in her self-esteem since she has been socialized as a woman, and therefore, traditionally undervalued and disempowered.

In a similar vein, couples composed of two people socialized as women will also face characteristic problems. Trained to self-efface and to put a partner's needs before her own, a woman involved in a relationship with another woman can become enmeshed in a dance of mutual self-effacement or an inverted power struggle. A lack of self-definition and therefore, an ignoring of one's own needs, leads to frustration, resentment, and anger, and often, hostility. The resulting power struggle can lead to a cycle of abuse where victim becomes victimizer.

Within lesbian couples, there may be a tendency to bond too closely or to "merge." Once again, this is a question of self-effacement or a lack of self-definition. Female children, nurtured by the mother, a same-sex parent, never have to separate
from the same sex or turn away from the mother as do male children when they begin to side with the father. As a result, women tend to bond more closely on an emotional level, and two women together, then, can fall into a symbiotic relationship. Furthermore, society's lack of validation of the lesbian couple also tends to force the couple to turn inward on itself and to close itself off.

This false sense of intimacy or merger will usually result in a reaction in the opposite direction or distancing. When couples merge, their sense of themselves as individuals is lost. Clothing may be shared, friends held in common, all activities engaged in together. The end result can be stifling, and the only escape, a fight or a break-up.

Therapy with couples addresses the issue of self-definition again. This work enables one to self-assert, to work through conflict, and to step out of victim/abuse cycles. It also strengthens both individuals who can come together as integrated, autonomous partners. They are now capable of true intimacy since there is difference between them, and sharing, not merger, is possible.

_Families of Lesbians._ Given the range of oppression and the resultant vulnerability to alcoholism and to weakened coping skills, what has enabled lesbians to overcome stress and remain healthy? Are lesbians limited to marginal lives of social isolation and alienation? Is therapy the only answer?

Research has shown that lesbians are aging better than heterosexual women. If this is so, what are the factors involved? What societal features enable the lesbian not only to survive, but to prosper and to continue to come out and remain out in public?

While many lesbians have been rejected by their families of origin, others have disclosed to their families and found there a base of true support. Those lesbians whose families have accepted their lesbianism have this traditional resource as a grounding factor in their lives.

Coming out to one's family plays a major role in one's self-definition. Yet, the family, very often, goes through the same type of struggle as the lesbian herself. Questions arise as to how the family now views itself and the "new" lesbian member; how to put together a stereotypical image of a lesbian with the image of the family member; how to deal with the stigma this will bring to the family; how to fight the stigma, and in its place, project a love and pride in the lesbian family member.

The family mourns the "loss" of the "old" (non-lesbian) daughter and becomes resocialized as a different family. Dreams of a marriage and grandchildren are lost, perhaps; fears of the daughter being oppressed are very real; religious conflicts arise. The struggle for the family parallels that of the lesbian, and for this reason, support groups exist for parents and families to deal with coming-out.

Just as the lesbian goes through a process of denial and slow acceptance, so too, the family experiences denial, guilt, isolation, and anger. Parents and family members may suffer a loss of self-esteem, depression, fears of not having modeled appropriate roles, of having "homosexual traits" themselves. The family may actually bargain with the lesbian to remain silent about her lesbianism, so things will be all right. Eventually, its members begin to explore feelings related to the daughter's lesbianism and gain knowledge affirmative of lesbians so as to break the myths and to confront stereotypes. It is only after this mourning process that integration can occur as a life-long possibility of communication which promotes self-actualization, as well as the means for the system to reconstruct itself and come to a full acceptance of the lesbian member.

Thus, a lesbian who is assured of her family's love during this time of struggle can better cope with the general fear and
guilt she experiences in disclosing to them. She is also empowered to confront stress in her environment.

Lesbian Couples. Another source of strength and validation for the lesbian is her primary relationship. Contrary to popular belief, lesbians do form committed, long-term relationships. These couples are commonly characterized by stability, an absence of role playing, and satisfaction.

The values of relationships expressed by lesbians resemble those of heterosexual women rather than those of either hetero- or homosexual men. They focus on equality of power, emotional expressiveness, and self-disclosure. Compared to heterosexual women, lesbians seem to favor more sexual openness and a greater similarity of beliefs between partners. Moreover, being less bound by traditional roles, lesbians seem to profit from a greater range of choices and individual freedom in the lesbian couple and better coping skills from having overcome stigma.

Stigma, then, would seem to be the factor which most differentiates lesbian from heterosexual couples. No markers, rites, or documents sanctify or protect the coming together of two lesbians. Families and friends often transgress boundaries by attempting to “fix up” one of the partners with a male date, or they fail to invite the partner to functions. It is an uncertain tribute to the resiliency and commitment of women to women that lesbians, pitted against this stigma, do succeed in maintaining relationships.

Parenting. As lesbian couples remain together longer, many consider becoming a family by adopting a child or by giving birth. Artificial insemination by donor has enabled many lesbian couples to form lesbian families and to co-parent. Some couples choose a gay male, others a relative of the partner to donate sperm. Along with this growing practice comes an emphasis on legalities concerning limitations of fathering rights and the inclusion of the rights of the lover of the biological mother in a nomination of guardianship. Cases already exist where, upon the death of the biological mother, her parents fought and won custody from the “psychological” parent (with whom the child naturally wanted to continue to live).

Lesbians are likewise adopting and fostering children. This is a more difficult procedure. Given the stereotype of lesbians as child molesters and seductresses, great care must be given to the personal and psychological examination and inspection of the residence in which the child will live.

More common than “new” lesbian families, though, are those families of procreation issuing from the earlier marriage of the lesbian. While potentially at risk because of the lesbianism of the mother (and custody challenged by the father), these families can provide much stability and validation of the lesbian mother and her lover. In this family, too, all members pass through a coming-out process. Herein lies the deciding factor controlling the degree of acceptance by the children and the ability to continue as a family unit.

Coming out as a lesbian to one’s children involves great risk. The younger the children are, the more easily they can accept that there is love between their mother and another woman. This is all the more true when the mother’s partner is seen as nurturing and giving. Children usually respond appropriately when the information given is in accord with their age and ability to understand.

Teen-agers present a more difficult situation. Here, the fear of “contamination” enters into the picture. Adolescents, so engrossed in their own sexuality, may fear that the mother’s lesbianism is genetic, or that they will be “turned into lesbians.” The anger involved in their mother’s stigmatizing them, by making them “different,” sometimes creates great rifts in families.

The lesbian mother’s task, then, is complex. She must convince her children of her continued love, of her contin-
ued identity as “their” mother and not a “different” person, and of her ability to continue as a healthy model for them. This task is complicated by the mother’s usual resulting guilt over her choice.

Because of this guilt and the fear of losing her children, the lesbian mother may deny herself access to a potential source of support: other lesbians, mothers and non-mothers, as well as other heterosexual mothers. To lesbians, she may appear to be a heterosexual woman; to heterosexual mothers, she may not be able to disclose her lesbianism.

Working through the guilt enables the mother to parent more effectively and to model emotional strength and stability for her children. Lesbian mothers who have dealt successfully with intolerance communicate their resiliency to their children and are more likely to foster tolerance for difference of every kind and self-actualization in their own children, male or female.

Friends. In addition to biological families and partners, lesbians garner their support from their friends. In many cases, friends have become the “kinship network” for the lesbian whose family has rejected her. Friends often include past lovers; lovers are usually considered friends as well as sexual and romantic partners.

This network of friends provides an emotional and concrete support system which is held responsible for many “advantages” that lesbians would appear to have over non-lesbian women in certain areas. It is said that lesbians age better than heterosexual women. This advantage over heterosexual women in the aging process is attributed to the fact that lesbians are less likely to be “left alone” by a partner’s desertion or death. Since men are usually outlived by women, many wives find themselves alone at an early age and somewhat isolated from a social network. This also holds true for newly separated and divorced women. Lesbians have never really distanced themselves from their women friends upon becoming involved in a couple. Therefore, they remain in touch with a range of friends, companions, and potential partners should a partner leave or die. Moreover, the lesbian community tends to represent women of all ages, thereby providing a circle of companions who are not likely to “disappear” or die within a short period of time of one another.

Community and Culture. It is just this circle of friends, acquaintances, and co-participants in lesbian activities who make up the lesbian community. “Community” bears with it not only the sense of solidarity as in “the women’s community,” but also conveys the image of all those establishments, institutions, activities, and media which provide an environment for lesbians.

This environment is both concrete and abstract. On one hand, figure the lesbian (and gay) community centers, the therapy institutes, groups, bookshops, the bars, shops, hotels, coffee houses, and alcohol treatment centers. On the other, the term “lesbian culture” can be abstracted from the combined workings of all of these establishments and women.

Lesbian culture does not simulate heterosexual or “straight” culture; nor does it merely complement straight culture. It has its origins in the homophile movement of the 1950s. Yet, it is distinct from the gay male culture. This discrete nature was expressed in the founding of the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955, the beginning of The Ladder in 1956, the first lesbian magazine, and the gradual politicization of the Daughters of Bilitis and of lesbianism in general during the 1960s and 1970s. Lesbian culture has as its core a philosophy of feminism and embraces therefore, an analysis of society, sometimes radical, sometimes not.

From this political base, where one is reminded that one’s personal undertakings are political, emanates a full range of cultural representations, the most widely publicized of which is lesbian writing. While there are publishing companies,
novels, essays, plays, poetry, magazines, journals, and newspapers which are known as "lesbian," for example, this label may imply that their value is marginal. On the contrary, lesbian women are producing work which is universal. The frame of reference, however, is lesbian.

Periodicals address a range of interests. Major cities and regions have lesbian magazines focusing on issues of concern to the lesbian community, as well as an analysis of broader issues. Calendars list local events and provide activities almost every day/night of the week (in larger cities and university towns). Magazines and journals feature areas of specific interest: for example, women's music, country lesbians.

In the world of art, lesbians are also represented. Collectives exist for the purpose of encouraging and supporting the work of lesbian photographers, filmmakers, and artists. Some remain grass roots operations, while others have incorporated and are producing "commercially competitive" work.

Lesbian music or women's music, as it was once called, is perhaps the form which succeeds in assembling the whole gamut of tastes, ages, styles, and politics among lesbians. Originally, one company, Olivia, a woman-owned company, represented all the lesbian-identified musicians. Now, many labels produce quality music of all styles. However, the pull of lesbian music goes beyond the record or tape to the lesbian concert.

Concerts have been a celebration for and of lesbians. There are several regional two-day festivals which bring together lesbian musicians, comedians, theorists, healers, book dealers, and so forth in a ritual of lesbian culture. A type of "Woodstock" event, festivals give lesbians "women-only" or "lesbian-only" space with camping, dancing, communal living for a weekend. Other concerts, such as that of Cris Williamson and Meg Christian in 1982 at Carnegie Hall in New York, helped to mark over ten years of women's music. Now, even "straight" clubs host lesbian musicians and draw large crowds, both straight and gay.

Conclusion. There is a lesbian button which was distributed in the 1970s. Its message reads: "We Are Everywhere." As the years pass, this may be even truer than before. Statisticians tell us that lesbians represent at least ten percent of the female population, but intimate that the actual figure is closer to twenty percent. More and more gay rights bills and ordinances are being passed despite right-wing politics. Some legislators and other prominent figures are making known their lesbianism and standing up publicly to advocate for gay rights. Lesbian families are thriving, and parents of lesbians march alongside them in Gay Pride marches.

These are changing times. The description above no longer seems to portray a stigmatized minority. Rather, a group emerging from its political infancy and adolescence appears to be closer to taking its full space. Like other minorities, lesbians have been fragmented and divided from one another or lumped together in a "seen one seen them all" type of focus. Their growing unity in diversity signifies a "no turning back" forward march.

This march of a diversified, strengthened people enhances the richness of all cultures. Lesbian culture reflects more and more diversity, and the manifestations of talent, skill, and excellence have grown proportionately. Just as ethnic lesbians bring back to their particular racial or ethnic community a more varied perspective, lesbians add another facet to the pluralism which characterizes American society.

Lesbians may remain outside the mainstream of society, through the continued oppression that is homophobia. Or, they may be gradually assumed into society through a desensitization of the "lesbian issue" and a political liberalization. Whichever turn things take, whichever stance lesbian theorists put forth as more desirable to avoid cooptation, the presence
of lesbians still delivers a clear message. The message remains: We Are Everywhere, and, as such, lesbians stand as a critique of society and provide an alternative to the traditional limiting role and identity accorded to women. Lesbians have self-defined: therein lies the power and promise of a discrete people.

See also Butch-Fem Relationships; Friendship, Female Romantic; Separatism, Lesbian.


Dolores J. Maggiore

LEWDNESS, OPEN OR PUBLIC

This is the American legal designation for a sexual touching in view of someone who might be offended thereby, in statutes often selectively enforced against homosexuals. It is often successfully argued that a vice officer used to the sight of such behavior, in fact trained to seek out observation of it and inured to it by frequent experience, cannot conceivably be shocked or offended by it. However, if he himself is touched, then battery, often a recommended conviction in plea bargaining, is committed. “Battery,” non-consensual touching, often of a plain-clothes member of the vice squad, is a non-sexual misdemeanor not requiring registration with the authorities as a “sex offender,” thereby having no automatic credentialing, licensing or employment disabilities. It is not a sex crime or one of moral turpitude and does not constitute a felony on the second offense as does loitering.

Statutes often fail in their language to make clear that the conduct to be punished is public, not private, as appears to have been the intention of framers who entitled it “open lewdness.” The omission of clear language limiting the scope to public conduct is disturbing and the wording of the statute should run as follows:

A person commits a disorderly offense if, in a place exposed to public view, he commits any flagrantly lewd and offensive act which he knows is likely to be observed by members of the public who would be affronted or alarmed.

[Proper phraseology indicated by italics does not alter the meaning in any way.]

The whole history of statutes of this kind is against criminalizing lewd conduct when it occurs in private. The
common law punished conduct such as indecent exposure, not because of its sexual character, but because it threatened a breach of the peace. This is reflected in many of the older penal laws such as the one in New York, replaced in 1965 by the present code. Section 722(8) of the old New York law punished such conduct only when it took place "with intent to provoke a breach of the peace, or whereby a breach of the peace may be occasioned." The same concept is involved in Section 2C:34-1, which penalizes the conduct only when other persons are affronted or alarmed. Where people are so offended, a clear risk of breach of the peace exists. This fortifies the conclusion that the drafters of such provisions had in mind only conduct exposed to public view, since by definition, a breach of the peace is something that affects the public. To punish conduct which is not exposed to public view, such as that occurring within the home or family, even if it be there observed by others, would extend the criminal law into areas where it has not generally intruded and would contradict the entire thrust of modern statutes that protect sexual privacy.

Open or public lewdness became a common law offense not because it was immoral but because it constituted a threat to public order. The common law did not punish lewd or lascivious behavior in private; fornication, unlike adultery, was no crime. But adultery, originally cognizable in ecclesiastical rather than royal courts, was punished as a criminal offense whether it took place in public or in private.

It can be argued that forms of "engaging" constitute "lewd, lascivious, or dissolute conduct." The law is also vague as to the meaning of "public place," a "place open to the public" and "exposed to public view." The analogies to solicitation are obvious, and in jurisdictions where sodomy is decriminalized, should the kissing or hugging of same-sex partners in public be defined as less legal or more lewd than similar activities by heterosexual couples? "Indecent exposure" would prescribe conduct so gross as to deserve criminalization. This refers to intentional, sexually motivated attracting of attention to one's exposed genitalia. Unlike solicitation, it is often offensive to the general public and reported by it to the authorities. In some jurisdictions it may be a felony on second or subsequent convictions. It often overlaps in certain respects with the non-provable misdemeanor "public lewdness." In fact, the modern penal codes of some jurisdictions combine the crimes of indecent exposure and public lewdness into a single statute. Though elimination of "public lewdness" would make it more difficult for police to build up their arrest records easily, it would lessen the burden of the courts and hardly cause more embarrassment or offense to the vast majority of the public.

See also Law, United States.

William A. Percy and Arthur C. Warner

LEZAMA LIMA, JOSÉ (1910–1976)

Cuban novelist and poet. The son of an artillery officer, Lezama Lima was impressed by military parades and gala events, images which often recur in his work. He suffered, like Marcel Proust, from asthma attacks that caused him to be separated from playmates. After his father died when he was nine, Lezama Lima lived with his mother, his two sisters, and his grandmother. His studies were brought to an end in 1930 when the Machado government closed the University of Havana. In 1936, however, he met the Spanish poet Juan Ramón Jiménez, who encouraged him to embark on a literary career. Alongside his own poetic production, he edited the journals Verbum (1937), La Espuela de plata (1939–41), Nadie parecía (1942–44), and Orígenes (1945–56). For these periodicals he translated the work of many French and English-speaking writers, including Proust and Camus, Yeats and T. S. Eliot.

In 1944 Lezama Lima began his masterwork, the novel Paradiso, which
was not to be published until 1966. In its reminiscences from his childhood, marked by illness and attachment to his mother, the novel recalls Proust’s *A la Recherche du temps perdu*. The descriptions of the narrator’s homosexuality surpass, however, this model in frankness. Other comparisons—to Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, Thomas Mann’s *Magic Mountain*, and even Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*—reveal the monumental status of the work. Upon its Havana publication, even in a defective first edition, the novel immediately assumed its place at the forefront of the “boom” of Latin American prose. Its linguistic innovations and breadth of consciousness were hailed by such peers as Julio Cortázar, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Juan Goytisolo. Although the book has been translated into the major European languages, its difficult prose style and anchoring in the Latin American scene have thus far denied the author the world recognition that he deserves. Lezama Lima intended to publish two sequels, but completed only one fragment, *Oppiano Licario*.

After the death of his mother in 1964, he lived in seclusion. Although he was never officially denounced by Castro’s government, his homosexuality and his Catholicism were known to be the subject of disapproval in the bureaucracy. His work has remained an example of artistic integrity and refusal to bow to political pressures.


*Wayne R. Dynes*

**LIBERACE, WŁADZIU VALENTINO (1919–1987)**

American popular entertainer. Liberace first attained local success by performing schmaltzy, abbreviated versions of piano classics at restaurants in his native state of Wisconsin. After appearances in the vaudeville circuit, he found a perfect match with American television as it emerged as the dominant mass medium in the 1950s. His flamboyant costumes and props helped to generate the adulation that made him one of the highest paid entertainers of all time. Many of his most faithful fans were older women, who apparently accepted at face value his public protestations that he was not homosexual.

In his West Milwaukee high school he already showed a fondness for drag, but apparently remained uninterested in sex until the 1940s, when he began to explore his taste for men. In 1956 Cassandra, an acidulous columnist for the London *Daily Mirror*, reviewed a Liberace concert, calling him “the summit of sex—the pinnacle of masculine, feminine and neuter. Everything that he, she, and it can ever want.” Then the American gossip tabloid *Confidential* joined in with a cover story entitled “Why Liberace’s Theme Song Should Be ‘Mad About the Boy.’” Unabashed, Liberace sued both publications, and won.

Rumors continued to circulate. Although he claimed to be devoted only to his pet dogs, Liberace’s mansions were home to a succession of handsome young men. In 1982 an ex-lover brought a palimony suit. Although Liberace was diagnosed with AIDS five months before he died, the fact was continually denied. Only a mandatory coroner’s autopsy revealed the truth. Liberace’s image as an entertainer had been a highly artificial creation, and so it remained until the end.


**LIBERALISM**

Liberalism is generally regarded as a distinctively modern political credo. As such it has implications for sexual liberty, but these must be understood against a broader background of political controversy.
Formative Influences. Liberalism arose in a civilization profoundly shaped by Greek philosophy, by Roman law, and by Protestant religion affirming the closeness of man's relationship with God. Nonetheless, the liberal idea of freedom was a novelty in the formative period of modern European civilization; it arrived only with the ascription of rights to the individual against those in authority over him, or against the collective embodied in tribal custom or in the state power. The rights posited by liberalism are significant, universal, and allotted to every human being endowed with the minimum of competence to govern his own affairs.

Liberalism undertook to restrict or even abrogate the power of the state and the church in favor of the individual, who was invested with a sovereignty in his own right, as the one best capable of judging his own needs and interests. In the Western European countries of Latin Christianity it was the church rather than the state that bore the responsibility for defending as well as teaching the true faith, and the temporal power was but the auxiliary summoned to smite those whom the church had condemned as heretics and reprobates. Hence the West—as compared, say, with Byzantium, Islam, or China—could more easily accept the notion that matters of faith and conscience lie beyond the jurisdiction of the state, that the spiritual and temporal powers must never be joined in one, and that the state should have the minimal function of preventing harmful and antisocial behavior, rather than serving as the primary upholder of religious and ethical truths.

The Role of Major Thinkers. The doctrine of the social contract, fashionable among political theorists in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, was first used to support the claims of religious minorities, and of churches and sects anxious to assert their independence of the civil power. This doctrine postulates an individual whose rights and wants precede the establishment of a government whose assigned task is to protect the rights and supply the wants. John Locke (1632–1704), in his Second Treatise of Civil Government (1690), argued that government exists to protect the life, liberty, and property of its subjects, who are obliged to obey it only so long as it protects them adequately and does not abuse its powers. Eventually, the defense of property was extended to one's own body, providing a powerful argument for sexual liberty. Political power, Locke maintained, is legitimate only when those holding it exercise it with the consent of the governed, who may take steps to prevent abuses of power. In France Montesquieu (1687–1755) further argued that it is expedient to separate the judicial from the executive and legislative powers, and in the twelfth book of The Spirit of the Laws (1748), he discussed principles and practices to ensure that no one be punished except for breaking the law, that accused persons receive a fair trial, and that citizens can exercise their rights effectively against both public officials and other citizens.

Edmund Burke (1729–1797), though an unrelenting champion of democracy, was concerned with another aspect of freedom that liberalism has seen fit to defend: the need to protect the rights of the individual from radical demagogues and popular dictators who seek to crush everyone who opposes the "will of the masses." The sovereignty of the people had to be dammed up by constitutional forms and legal procedures that would thwart unjust and oppressive measures, no matter how strongly they were desired by the majority. This doctrine, sometimes termed counter-majoritarianism, was later to prove important for the defense of unpopular minorities, including homosexuals. In essence, classical liberalism saw the rights of the individual as standing in opposition to the claims of the state, whether the latter derived its power from divine sanction or from the will of the electorate.
The modern idea of freedom has also had to confront the problem of the relation between man and society. In his *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality among Men* (1754), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778) argued that man acquires distinctively human skills and needs only by leaving the state of nature, and that these social needs can be satisfied only by civil institutions such as government. Rousseau also introduced the notion that insofar as man is "corrupted" by society he can be motivated to act in a manner harmful to himself and to others. He can acquire wants and ambitions that are insatiable, inconsistent with one another or with his future well-being, or such that the means to satisfy them will always be lacking.

Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) made a sharper distinction than did Rousseau between morality and legality. The task of the state is to make and enforce laws in the common interest; the freedom that lies in obedience to self-imposed laws belongs to a sphere with which the state is not directly concerned. This principle was later to be invoked as an argument that there is a sphere of moral choice which should be left to private conscience and not to the intervention of the state with its police power.

One nineteenth-century thinker stands out, the English utilitarian John Stuart Mill (1806–1873). In his widely read paper, "On Liberty" (1869), Mill held that no one has the right to interfere with the freedom of action of another competent adult, unless the action causes harm. Moreover, Mill linked this principle of liberty of action with liberty of expression. One should hesitate to repress opinions because it is very difficult to tell which opinions are false, and even if this could be determined, silencing them will cause more harm than good.

In 1911 L. T. Hobhouse (1864–1929) created a new model of welfare liberalism, incorporating some elements from Fabian socialism and advocating vigorous government intervention. Although this version of liberalism is the most familiar form today, it is of less significance for homosexuals than classical liberalism, since the economic and social issues addressed by the welfare state are not pertinent to gay people as such.

**Applications.** Homosexual advocates, from the 1860s to the present day, have appealed to one strand or another of the classical liberal tradition in their effort to sway public opinion. The basic argument has been that the individual should have the same right to seek happiness in the sexual sphere as in any other, that the state should no more intervene in the bedroom than it does in the marketplace. Crucial to the logic of this position is the assertion that true homosexuality is inborn, or at least environment-stable, and not modifiable by conditioning or experience. The inference is that homosexual men and women should have the same right to sexual expression as their heterosexual counterparts, and that it is unjust to penalize any segment of the population for engaging in conduct which it finds pleasurable and which causes no harm to others. The opposition has often countered with a version of Rousseau's belief that the child and adolescent are exposed to a corrupting environment which can cause them to be fixated in a homosexual orientation.

The separation of church and state—which, it should be emphasized, has not been achieved in many countries where liberalism triumphed in the political and economic sphere—has been a cornerstone of the arguments for homosexual emancipation in the United States. It might be thought that the formal separation of the spiritual and temporal powers realized by the First Amendment to the American Constitution would have ended all laws whose object is to impose the ascetic morality of the Christian church upon the citizenry by penal sanctions. That this did not occur at the end of the eighteenth century and in many jurisdictions has not occurred until now must be
regarded as the greatest single failure of liberalism in the English-speaking world. While other areas of criminal law and procedure underwent drastic changes as a consequence of liberal criticism of the practices of the Old Regime, by standing still the penalties for consensual homosexual behavior between adults became relatively even more severe: in not a few states, as late as the 1960s, they were three or four times the maximum that could be imposed for armed robbery, theft of funds from a charitable institution, or beating or neglecting a small child.

A conservative argument for retaining the penal sanctions is that they are actively desired and approved by a majority of the electorate. To this the liberal reply is that the individual—including the homosexual individual—should be protected in his personal rights and freedoms against an intolerant majority, in this case a majority incited by fundamentalist and tradition-minded religious bodies who openly appeal to their members to oppose legislation on behalf of homosexuals. However, referenda sponsored by right-wing churches have in numerous cities succeeded in repealing gay rights bills enacted by a majority of the city council; and the very same courts that have ruled in favor of other minority groups have balked at extending the protection of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the gay minority.

Classical liberalism addressed itself mainly to political and economic issues, leaving the topic of sexual morality and the legitimacy of sexual acts strictly alone. It was too preoccupied with reform of the commonwealth, with the winning of political rights and economic freedoms for the individual, to be concerned with so sensitive an area of private life as the sexual. Its sole accomplishments in this sphere were an exceedingly gradual relaxation of the laws on divorce that expanded the admissible grounds for terminating a marriage, and a similar attenuation of the statutes against birth control and pornography. Also, liberal reforms required an organized interest group, a constituency that could bring pressure to bear on the executive and legislative branches of government—and because of the social stigma attaching to homosexuality no such formal organization was possible until quite recently. On the other hand, the exceedingly authoritarian personality types who detest homosexuals are often self-excluded from the political arena because they cannot follow the grammar of politics which liberalism has formulated, including the need to unite around a single issue with allies who hold divergent views on other issues.

Liberalism never extended the notion that enlightened self-interest is a legitimate motivating principle for human actions to the realm of sexual pleasure, except in the work of a handful of thinkers such as Jeremy Bentham who were well in advance of their time. Many of the revered authors of the liberal school, when they discussed sexual matters at all, felt obliged to treat traditional views as beyond criticism. Furthermore, although prior censorship of printed matter had been abolished in England in 1694, through the offense of blasphemy which was retained the notion of obscenity crept into the common law, with the definition that a book was obscene if it tended to corrupt anyone "into whose hands it might fall." In practice this ruling meant that it was impossible even to publish works that sought to enlighten the public on the subject of homosexuality.

The consequence of this liberal failure of nerve was that postmedieval attitudes toward homosexual individuals and homosexual behavior persisted well into the middle of the twentieth century, even in countries where almost every other vestige of the inequality and intolerance of the Old Regime had been relegated to the "dustbin of history." It was only in 1954, 57 years after Magnus Hirschfeld founded the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, 90 years after Karl Heinrich Ulrichs began...
his lonely campaign for homosexual emancipation, 190 years after Cesare Beccaria published his treatise *On Crimes and Punishments*, that the Moral Welfare Council of the Church of England finally "took the initiative" to call for reform of the archaic laws.

The Report of the Wolfenden Committee that was published three years later utilized many of the arguments of classical liberalism to justify its decision to recommend law reform, yet one critic of the document noted that it seemed to stand outside time—that far from being novel, it appealed to notions which victorious liberalism had by then made commonplace and self-evident in all other spheres of life.

**Relevance.** Since the struggle for homosexual liberation is far from ended, it is well to consider how the fundamental notions of the liberal creed apply to the issue. Liberalism denied the role of the state as a coercive guardian of the morals of the citizen; instead it defended his right to autonomy and to freedom in his private life. It demanded the separation of the state from the church, and an end to the use of the police power of the state to enforce religious teaching. It held the rights of the individual sacrosanct against the tyranny of the majority as much as against the arbitrary whim of a crowned sovereign. The laws and customs that stand in the way of homosexual liberation are an anachronistic legacy of the Europe of absolutist monarchies that the liberal credo was to transform into a set of constitutional states with laws and institutions meant to safeguard the freedom and dignity of the individual. Despite its shortcomings, the liberal tradition is an indispensable resource for the gay rights movement of today.


**Warren Johansson**

**LIBERATION, GAY**

In 1969, almost immediately after the Stonewall Rebellion, the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) sprang up in New York City. The choice of name reflects the fame of several movements to overthrow foreign domination that had arisen after World War II in Europe's remaining colonies, especially in Vietnam and Algeria where the insurgent forces both adopted the name National Liberation Front. Such models became attractive in North America because of the widespread opposition to the Vietnam war, and the analogy that was at that time discerned between the colonized in the Third World, on the one hand, and blacks and other ethnic minorities in North America (e.g., the Québécois), on the other.

A major source of ideas and inspiration for gay liberation has been the women's movement. Betty Friedan recalls first hearing "women's liberation" in 1967, two years before the Stonewall Rebellion. The expression apparently originated among women of SNCC, a civil rights group, and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), who had grown tired of being assigned the demeaning roles of coffee makers and secretaries in their own organizations. Thus women's liberation meant not only freedom from the oppression of society in general, but also from the sexism rampant in movements for social change as they were then constituted.

All the same, the Gay Liberation Front in New York City and its namesakes elsewhere were inspired by the New Left analysis which viewed the plight of the minorities as the result of deep, systemic flaws in society. In the turbulent days of the early seventies the GLFs faded, in part because of their lack of strong organizational structure, which made them vulnerable to factional strife, internal opportunism from inadequately screened re-
cruits from the "street people," and FBI infiltration. Also, with the end of the Vietnam war in January 1973 the wave of radicalism that had swept over North America came to an end, and the multi-issue organizations of the late 1960s could no longer rally large followings. These volatile groupings yielded to more structured and "respectable" single-issue bodies, such as the Gay Activists Alliance and the National Gay Task Force, which sought to advance the cause of gay rights within the existing political and economic framework of American society. In Britain and Europe the greater strength of older radical traditions made the multi-issue model—in alliance with the left, even the extreme left—more long-lived, but eventually it faded everywhere.

What remained was the idea of liberation, the definition of which varied of course from one tendency to another. An early statement of the liberationist's aims was Carl Wittman's "A Gay Manifesto" of 1969, which lashed out against the mimicry of "straight" society, oppression, self-oppression, and role dichotomies, while favoring gay ghettos (if reorganized as "liberated zones"), together with coalitions with women, blacks, Hispanics, and radicals. Wittman had been active in the paramount New Left organization, SDS, and he later acknowledged that the oppression he felt as a gay person in that group both hindered and shaped the emergence of his consciousness.

Thoroughgoing true believers invidiously contrasted gay liberation with gay emancipation, which was stigmatized as a collage of mere cosmetic, reformist pseudosolutions designed to "mystify" and obstruct the revolutionary project. Others, with less flaming rhetoric, viewed that matter as a two-stage process. In the first stage there is a primarily legal and legislative struggle to secure basic gay rights. This phase then gives way to the more creative and difficult construction of gay liberation as part of a program of universal human liberation. Such utopianism, though probably not destined to disappear altogether, became less salient in the 1980s.

The sexual liberation movement inspired many GLF groups. The New York GLF paper Come Out carried pictures of the staff in the nude as did Rosa von Praunheim's German film It Is Not the Homosexual Who is Perverse But the Society in Which He Lives (1971). Boston's Fag Rag and San Francisco's Gay Sunshine, together with Washington's Furies and Boston's Amazon Quarterly, explored themes of phallic imperialism and new forms of sexual liberation. Herbert Marcuse's widely read Eros and Civilization, Wilhelm Reich's works, and Shulamith Firestone's Dialectics of Sex all provided early clues to a new direction. Consciousness-raising groups based on the Chinese cultural revolution spread to the women's movement and then to gay liberation. In the 1980s they were largely replaced by psychotherapists who favored accommodation more than fundamental social change.

Although many adherents of the "revolutionary" program of gay liberation would be loath to admit it, there probably lingers in the background of their program the kernel of a Judeo-Christian theological notion, that of deliverance, in the sense of a rebirth or total transformation of the spirit. The Exodus experience—simultaneously an escape from bondage and a summons to build a new life for the community in the Promised Land—is the most important single precedent. Another significant religious tradition is medieval millenarianism, which yoked demands for radical social change ("the last shall be first") to expectations of apocalyptic upheavals. These ideas fed into nonconformist Christian traditions of various stripes. Protestant churches have preserved memories of separation from ties to a Roman Catholicism accused of having lost the ideal of primitive Christianity, in order to build a new Jerusalem. In the 1980s a group
of Radical Faeries purchased land in Wolf Creek, Oregon, where they seek to build both a refuge and a new kingdom.

These traditions, and others not cited that may also be relevant, share universal themes: the slave losing his shackles; release from prison; and escape from the arbitrary power of a despot. Yet as gay men and lesbians more and more take their place in the mainstream, these images of radical change seem less persuasive. By the 1980s—when the insurrectionary turbulence of gay radicalism was only a memory—while the expression “gay liberation” was still heard, it had lost the almost messianic fervor with which it was once invested, to become part of the everyday language of political entitlement. The mandate of separatist charisma had yielded to the more immediate rewards of mainstreaming.


Wayne R. Dynes

LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVES

In the strict sense libertarianism is a political trend that emerged in the United States in the 1960s. Its ideas stem not only from the anarchist tendency that views the state as the enemy, but also from Anglo-American traditions of individual liberty, private property, and classical liberalism. Libertarians see the expansion of state power as the principal source of the ills of modern society, as it tends to restrict the rights of the individual, choke economic development, and foster international intervention and conflict. Libertarians can claim to combine features from both the radical and conservative traditions, and they have attracted followers from both groups. In an era of computerization and nuclear weapons, their ideas are often dismissed as anachronistic. If the goal is abolition of the state or even reduction of its role to that of a “night watchman” offering only the most limited services (the minimal state), libertarian ideals may seem chimerical. Yet as the histories of the abolitionist and prohibition movements show, the function of such projects is not to supplant existing political parties, but to place issues on the agenda. Feasibility studies of individual sectors of the economy, such as garbage collecting and fire protection, suggest that these tasks can be performed more efficiently by private industry. As the appeal of state socialism has faded throughout the world, such diverse countries as France, Mexico, and Singapore have embarked on privatization campaigns. Libertarians have also been strongly in favor of deregulation in industries that already are private.

The defense of individual rights—which is, of course, not conducted exclusively by libertarians—has appealed strongly to mainstream gay men and lesbians. To be sure, the libertarian insistence on preserving the realm of personal privacy goes against the radical slogan “The personal is the political,” but this principle no longer seems a categorical imperative. Deployment of privacy strategies has been an effective strategy for lawyers seeking to defend gay rights. Libertarians consistently favor abrogation of all sodomy laws as unwarranted intrusions into the private sphere. In this instance they are following the classical liberal principle that the state has no right to prohibit acts committed by competent adults that do not harm others. However, libertarians oppose new legislation banning discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing, and public accommodation. This opposition stems from the principle that freedom of association is also freedom from association. As a general rule, libertarians are against efforts to
achieve equality by governmental intervention. This stand alienates not only socialists but many liberal Democrats. At the same time the libertarian critique of adventurism in foreign affairs appeals to these same groups. As indicated, the libertarian program straddles both left and right, making it difficult for it to present a clear electoral image. Not surprisingly, libertarians have not done well at the polls in the United States, though considerably better than the miniscule Marxist parties.

Roots. It is tempting to dismiss libertarianism as a minor bubble in the political profile of the late twentieth century. However, its key ideas have deep roots, and two of these have consequences for sexual freedom. The first theme is the idea of reexamining the laws, one by one, to see if they truly contribute to human happiness. In many instances laws are found to have been created for, or captured by special interest groups. The second key theme is the idea of the individual's right to control his or her own body. "Get your laws off my body" turns out to be a new version of an old idea.

Focus on unjust and unnecessary laws was part of the Enlightenment critique of the Old Regime. Voltaire succeeded in mobilizing public opinion by focusing on particular atrocities. One such was the execution of the Protestant Jean Calas in 1762 on a false charge of having murdered his own son. Voltaire showed that Calas' punishment reflected more hatred of his deviant religious faith than any concern for the impartial administration of justice. Later he was to make much of cases of blasphemy and witchcraft.

An overarching theory of legal reform was created by the Italian Enlightenment thinker, Marquis Cesare Beccaria, whose treatise of 1764, On Crimes and Punishments, was received with almost rapturous enthusiasm throughout Europe. As a utilitarian, Beccaria held that the state's right to punish must be subordinate to the overarching imperative of human happiness. Hence there can be no excuse for torture or excessive punishment. Moreover, unless punishment can be certainly demonstrated to be efficacious, it should be renounced. Wherever possible, social ills should be avoided by treating the root causes in a preventative manner. Thus sodomy (which Beccaria certainly did not favor) has persisted for centuries despite draconian legislation. It should be dealt with, he held, by reforming the places in which it is fostered, such as same-sex boarding schools.

These continental trends supported a comprehensive overhaul of the legal system with a view to radical pruning of bad laws. Before this program could be accomplished, as a consequence of the French Revolution, the European continent had received two important motifs of British origin. One is the notion, developed over several centuries of dispute between king and parliament, that the power of the state must be constantly monitored to see that it does not encroach upon the rights of the individuals and groups that comprise society. Then John Locke and others in his tradition had stressed that private property is closely connected with personal liberty. From this link one can deduce that as one owns one's body, the state has no justification in seeking to control it in the absence of harm to others.

The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. The early socialist writers tended to emphasize the collective at the expense of the individual. One among them, however, the visionary Charles Fourier (1772–1837), stands apart. The guiding feature of Fourier's system is the law of attraction he derived from astronomy. Through this concept he anticipated the libertarian idea of spontaneous order arising from individual needs as against artificial order imposed from above. Among the needs Fourier recognized was sexual expression, including that of same-sex love, and his ideal communities were organized to provide a place for the whole range of sexual expression.
Seminal for the libertarian tradition is the German Max Stirner (1806–1856), the individualist anarchist. Stirner rejected every type of collectivism, and all theories which purported to discern a single, abstract essence of humanity. At the center of his vision stands the human individual, of whom alone one can have certain knowledge. Stirner, who taught in a girl's school, was not bold enough to develop the corollary of sexual freedom which follows from his theory of absolute individualists. Perhaps his caution was justified. Even at the end of the century, when John Henry Mackay (1864–1933)—an anarchist who was also a boy lover—revived Stirner's theories, he did not dare to state frankly their implications for sexual freedom.

The anarchist thinkers are generally reproached for overlooking the organic unity of society as a collective, rather than a mere aggregate of individuals. No such objection can be made to the thought of the utilitarians Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832) and John Stuart Mill (1806–1873). Unfortunately Bentham's incisive critiques of the criminalization of sodomy long remained in manuscript and were not published until the twentieth century, by which time the ideas had in some respects become dated. Mill, though not concerned with sexual variation, defended a fundamental principle of liberty that has continued in honor in the English-speaking world. In "On Liberty" (1859) he affirmed that "the sole end for which mankind is warranted, individually or collectively, in interfering with the liberty of action of any of their number, is self-protection." With this defense of competent adults to do anything they wish provided they do nothing to harm others, he combined a powerful advocacy of freedom of expression. "We can never be sure," he insisted, "that the opinion we are endeavoring to stifle is a false opinion; and if we were sure, stifling it would be an evil still."

A number of these strands were drawn together and stated in a strikingly modern way in the unfortunately little known 1908 Heidelberg doctoral dissertation of Kurt Hiller, *Das Recht über sich Selbst* (The Right over Oneself). This work concerns a broad front of topics: suicide, self-mutilation, dueling, incest, homosexuality, bestiality, and abortion. Marshalling a dense body of argumentation in a historical perspective reaching back to classical Roman law, Hiller provided a kind of unified-field theory of offenses that he held should not be criminalized because they pertain to self-ownership. The case for decriminalizing deviant sexual behavior—incest, homosexuality, and bestiality—gains force from the analogous (and probably more easily acceptable) arguments for nonsexual deviation. Hiller believes that almost all the rationalizations that have accumulated in favor of criminal sanctions in the categories he surveys have a religious or mystical origin. As such, they are arguments that cannot pass unchallenged in a modern secular state. In this contrast of religion and secularism Hiller admits himself a child of the Enlightenment. Ultimately, however, the solution lies in recognizing that the criminalization of all these matters interferes with the right to control one's own body.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the libertarian opposition to the state is founded not only upon anarchism, with its visceral distrust of authority, but on a kind of universal sundown principle: which laws—and there are probably many—do not deserve to remain on the books? They should be struck down because they fetter human liberty and creativity and serve no other useful social purpose. However, the abolition of private property, advocated by many leftists and some anarchists, must not be countenanced, for this will undermine one's right to own one's body. Not only does this principle of self-sovereignty lie at the heart of the libertarian social philosophy, it makes possible its particular contribution to the cause of sexual liberty.
LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVES


Wayne R. Dynes

LIBERTINISM

This current of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century European thought, which was imbued with ancient skeptical philosophy (Pyrrhonism), offered a materialist approach to reality. It reflected also the "polemic of the three imposters" (Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed) and the heterodox Aristotelianism of the later Middle Ages.

Basic Features. What passes under the name of libertinism today is in fact a heterogeneous amalgam of beliefs and ideas, which are philosophical in the broad sense, and moral as well. Despite the diversity of the phenomena grouped under the umbrella of the label, all the variants of libertinism share a family resemblance; they all have at least one of its constituent elements (e.g., belief in the mortality of the soul, the theory of religion as imposition, moral relativism, and skepticism).

Not having coalesced into a school, libertinism never created a dogmatic system; it is rather a climate of thought and an overall approach. It was often more a matter of problems than specific solutions. Thus in response to the problem of the existence of God the libertines oscillated between atheism and deism, and some were even Christian believers.

The plasticity of libertinism is also shown by the presence of libertine elements in the religious polemics of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—especially when Christian sects accused another one of being the creations of imposters. Not surprisingly skepticism in relation to religion provoked a vast campaign by religious defenders, both Catholic and Protestant, against libertinism. These attacks lingered in the tendency to equate libertinism with dissolution: even today, in common parlance the libertine is simply a rake.

With respect to genuine libertinism, a typical claim is that all religions are the carapaces of cunning imposters, who have taken advantage of popular credulity to terrorize the ignorant with fables so as to keep them submissive to those who would manipulate them. This premise yields the conclusion that there can be no "revealed" moral code, but only what the educated man succeeds in fashioning for himself through the application of Reason in search of virtue and truth.

Libertinism does not accept prohibitions on conduct that are based solely on the revelation of holy scriptures of any sort. Thus its morality is intended to be strictly rational, and as such secular. Moral imperatives and laws come not from the dictates of religion but from comprehension of the need for rules in order to obtain a well-ordered civil society.

A last major component of the sensual morality of the libertines was the widespread belief in the mortality of the soul. This doctrine was taught at Padua, a major center of the trend, by Cesare Cremonini (1550–1631), who based his thought on that of Pietro Pomponazzi (1462–1525).

Sexual Aspects. Libertines held that, as a loving and benign mother, not a cruel one, Nature has provided men with sexual organs so that they may use them. Man is not born to suffer, but to enjoy the pleasures which he might seek, provided that others are not harmed. Since each man may only expect a single life, the earthly one, there is no profit in suffering in exchange for a nonexistent heavenly reward.

These are the reasons why the libertine thinker could not fail to place a positive value on human sexuality—including its homosexual aspects. For him homosexual relations have, on the moral plane, the same dignity as heterosexual
ones; morally they are indifferent. For the libertine the Biblical condemnation of sodomy is the ultimate absurdity; an illustration of this view is the pederastic text *L'Alcibiade fanciullo a scola*. Here too there can be no wrong in making use of one's genitals to obtain the pleasure that Nature herself has made possible. Nothing can be "against nature" that occurs through Nature's grace.

The famous declaration attributed to the Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe—"all they that love not tobacco and boys [are] fools"—synthesizes the libertine approach to the question; one has to be a fool not to appreciate the pleasures that life offers.

Also typical of libertinism is the lowering of the whole supernatural dimension to a human level through the attribution of human defects and desires (including sexual ones) to the personages of sacred history. Thus there emerged those terrible "blasphemies" which so convulsed the church. In the homosexual realm a typical libertine affirmation is one that can be documented several times across the centuries—in a Venetian Inquisition trial of 1550 against one Francesco Calcagno, in the 1593 accusation against Christopher Marlowe, in a Lisbon Inquisition trial (1618) of one Manuel Figueredo, and in the *Essai sur la peinture* of Denis Diderot (1713–1784)—namely that Jesus and St. John (the beloved disciple) were lovers.

Sexual heterodoxy was quickly taken advantage of by the adversaries of the libertines to present them as monsters of vice, and immoral individuals capable of any evil in order to obtain carnal pleasure. In actual practice libertines respected human laws as far as possible. Convinced that they belonged to an elite of a few enlightened persons in a world dominated by ignorance and stupidity, they had no intention of creating scandal among the masses who were too obtuse to grasp the reasons for their behavior.

In fact libertinism was an intrinsically conservative attitude: it is not an accident that Antonio Rocco (1586–1652), author of *Alcibiade fanciullo a scola* just cited, was one of the most determined opponents of Galileo Galilei. The libertine held that the ignorant masses, incapable of curbing their animal passions through Reason, needed the restraints offered by religion and superstition. For this reason the libertine attitude toward religion is one of amused indulgence—yielding at most to mocking blasphemy—but refraining from outright and sustained attack. In this perspective superstition, though an evil, was a necessary evil.

**Historical Vicissitudes.** Initially strong in Italy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, libertinism attracted the determined persecution of Counterreformation society which succeeded in driving it underground. The shrinkage of Italian libertinism nonetheless did not mean its end, while in seventeenth-century France and England it enjoyed a noteworthy flowering. One need only mention the figure of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester (1647–1680), the witty Restoration rake whose writings heralded the liveliness and license of eighteenth-century England.

Nonetheless, the seeds of decline were sown in the seventeenth century when Western thought cut away its ground of scientific speculation, which was rooted in Aristotelianism. René Descartes (1596–1650) proposed an approach to materialism that was more productive. Only in the moral field did the libertine trend succeed in remaining alive until the rise of the Enlightenment, of which it constituted one of the sources.

Arguments and attitudes typical of libertinism reemerged in the writings of the thinkers of the Enlightenment: one of the most radical sequela of their thought was the work of the Marquis de Sade.

Yet this author marks the last stage of libertinism, for in him it becomes what the adversaries of the trend re-
proached it for being: the search for pleasures (reserved for the elite) which stopped at nothing, the sufferings of others being of no account. This attitude is very far from the equilibrium and urbanity of the beginnings of libertinism. With Sade the principle of maximizing the enjoyment of the single existence of man, and hence of a positive and joyous attitude to life, becomes a search for pleasure that can lead to suffering and death—as seen in the 120 Days of Sodom.

Having reached this stage of intellectual no return, libertine thought became moribund. The French Revolution tore asunder the social fabric in which libertinism had sheltered its last adherents, and after this point it must be regarded as extinct.


**Giovanni Dall’Orto**

**LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES**

Because of the clandestine or marginal origins of so many publications dealing with nonconforming sexuality, their representation in public and university libraries is thin. Sometimes librarians reject donations of erotic items (even scholarly books), or relegate them to special collections, the existence of which may be unknown even to sophisticated and well-qualified users. At the British Museum (now the British Library), the books in the Private Case were not entered in the main catalogue until the end of the 1960s. As such items are often stolen, there may be good reason to keep them secure, but such precautions are quite different from concealing their existence altogether.

Some Basic Features of Research Libraries. With the lessening of taboos such books are now more commonly accessioned and catalogued, but they remain restricted to a small number of libraries, from which, however, they may usually be borrowed through interlibrary loan. In the case of brochures, articles, or selections from books photocopying is a good alternative. Bearing in mind the limitations of its several editions, the *National Union Catalogue* should be consulted in checking locations. It is also worthwhile to examine the printed catalogues of the British Museum/Library in London and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Determined researchers prepare lists of rare sources so that in visiting the cities in which they are found, they can consult them.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that in North America at least a high proportion of male librarians are homosexual. Only in 1971, however, was the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association formed. Under the leadership of Barbara Gittings, this group has created a number of short bibliographies, which have been distributed to librarians and patrons in a successful effort to improve the scope of books on homosexuality in the average public library. It is here, after all, that many young and closeted gay men and lesbians go to seek information about themselves; in earlier decades they were likely to find only judgmental accounts under the category of “abnormal psychology.”

In view of their rarity and inherent interest, books in the realm of “erotica” have appealed to well-to-do collectors, and a specialized book trade has grown up to meet the demand. We have a detailed record of the contents of one such private holding produced by the collector himself, the Victorian Henry Spencer Ashbee (“Pisanus Fraxi”) in three volumes in 1877–85, and reprinted as *Bibliography of Forbidden Books* (New York, 1962).

In order to compensate for difficulty of access elsewhere, research institutions and gay organizations have sought
to build up their own libraries. The Berlin Institute of Sexual Science, headed by Magnus Hirschfeld, had 20,000 volumes, together with a large picture collection, and a unique archive of sexual histories. Following Hitler's accession to power, a campaign of bookburning was begun to rid the German people of "unhealthy" influences. The Institute was one of the first targets, and on May 10, 1933, the bulk of its collections were destroyed in a public ceremony. Although no catalogue of this library has survived, many of the printed items contained were noted in the lists published annually in the *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* (until 1923). A contemporary, though smaller Dutch library, assembled by Jacob van Schorer, was catalogued. Today, the library of the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research on the campus of Indiana University at Bloomington is unquestionably the largest collection devoted to all types of sexual expression.

*Gay and Lesbian Archives*. As the American gay movement emerged in the 1950s a need for specialized libraries began to be felt, not only for research but also for the convenience of members who could not find even fairly innocuous gay and lesbian novels at their tax-supported public libraries. Modest budgets restricted acquisitions so that only in rare instances was it possible to obtain the classic European studies of the subject; in practice these organizational collections consisted mainly of pulp paperbacks donated by members. For want of security the collections were sporadically pilfered, and when the organizations folded, the materials that had been assembled were usually dispersed.

To deal with the problem a new institution, the gay and lesbian archive, emerged. Appropriately, the largest of these is located in Los Angeles, where the modern American movement began. The International Gay and Lesbian Archive (IGLA) comprises some 25,000 books, together with clippings, photographs, artworks, and gay/lesbian ephemera and memorabilia (flyers, banners, buttons, etc.). The IGLA core derives from the private collection started by the curator, Jim Kepner, in 1943; it was opened as a public institution in Hollywood in 1979. Also in Southern California are the Baker Memorial Library of ONE, Inc. The holdings of the Homosexual Information Center, formerly in Hollywood, have been transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana. These institutions are rivaled by the Canadian Gay Archives, which began in Toronto in 1973 as an offshoot of the monthly *The Body Politic*. This collection concentrates on, though is not limited to, Canadian material, and has issued a number of useful publications. The Thesaurus, or detailed subject listing, created by the Canadian group is probably the best available. In New York the Lesbian Herstory Archives, restricted to women's materials, is the largest collection of its kind. Bibliographical information is provided by the *Lesbian Herstory Archives News*, which began in 1975. Smaller archives flourished in a number of other North American cities, and others are being developed in Europe and Australia. Some European scholars take the position, however, that it is better to integrate holdings into public collections where they are less exposed to attacks of the kind that destroyed the Berlin collection.

While some archives have been forced to shut down owing to lack of funds, personnel, and user interest, and others have gone into temporary storage for similar reasons, enough stability has been achieved to permit the formulation of some basic operating principles. At the outset it is important to determine the scope of the archive and the public that it is intended to serve. These definitions will reflect in part the presence or absence of complementary institutions in the region, so that the existence of a first-class university library would make superfluous the acquisition of some mainstream items. Securing adequate premises, not only for present collections but for future growth, is a major
consideration. Self-owned buildings are the ideal but this is rarely attainable. It may be possible to share quarters with a cognate institution, thus reducing costs. Installation in a private home can only be considered a temporary measure, as access tends to be restricted. Materials should not simply be received on a passive basis, but be persuaded to give their papers to the archive, benefitting from a tax write-off. During the period in which the facility is being established, some donors may prefer to “loan” materials with a view to deeding them over later when they are satisfied that stability has been achieved. Increasingly archivists need to extend their horizons beyond “hard copy” (print and manuscript materials on paper) to embrace films, tape recordings, video tapes, and other electronic modes of data storage. For day-to-day work copiers and word processors are essential.

As regards the organizational papers donated by groups, it may be desirable to keep these together as a subcollection in order to preserve their integrity, rather than mingling them with related items of different provenance. The issuance of a newsletter is a major desideratum, not only to make a larger public aware of the collection, but also as a way of stimulating donor interest. Cataloguing depends on the existence of a thesaurus of categories, which may be self-generated or adopted from another archive. Needless to say, funding is a perennial problem, since governmental assistance usually cannot be obtained, even if wanted. Development of a dedicated and harmonious corps of volunteers is essential, together with “angels” to provide regular financial subsidy. Most archives reject charging user fees, but such policies must be reviewed if they spell the difference between continuing and shutting down.


**Wayne R. Dynes**

**LIFESTYLE**

In current usage the term lifestyle refers to the ensemble of choices that an individual may make in employment, leisure activities, dress, and self-presentation that serve to link him with a larger group in society (e.g., the hippie, jetset, and yuppie lifestyles). The element of choice is central: although an individual may have been raised in one lifestyle, he may elect to join another. (Income is usually the limiting factor.) This usage contrasts with the meaning of the term when first introduced in English in translations (from 1929 on) of the writings of the depth psychologist Alfred Adler, for whom it denotes an individual’s basic character as formed in childhood, after which it cannot be changed. (In German *Lebensstil* had been used by Georg Simmel as early as 1900.) The shift in meaning may have been assisted by the somewhat similar expression “way of life.”

**Problems of Definition.** Lifestyle is currently a journalistic rather than a social science term. For this reason its definition and boundaries are not always easy to determine. In theory everyone has a lifestyle, but in practice the word attaches to those who have departed from mainstream conventionality. This departure occurs either through upward or downward mobility. The yuppie and “fast lane” lifestyles can only be supported through a good deal of discretionary income, while the hippie or dropout exults in his flight from middle-class respectability (though these individuals may not be as poor as they seem). It may be, however, that the unreconstructed “square,” who retains the habits and mores of the environment in which he was brought up, is also following a lifestyle, as José Ortega y Gasset remarked in a different context,
not to choose is also to choose. All the same, the square may decry "trendy" pursuers of lifestyles, who he feels are eroding the moral fabric of society. Similarly, leftists have attacked "lifestylism" as mere self-indulgence, a hedonistic disregard of the call to make a revolution. Then lifestyles may overlap: a motorcyclist may participate both in the leather gay subculture and the biker subculture. Finally, on closer inspection what appears to be one lifestyle, may break up into a bundle of related phenomena. Although the gay lifestyle may be discussed in a unitary fashion, one should bear in mind that it has many subcomponents, so that (e.g.) the lifestyle of a lesbian businesswoman is very different from that of a lesbian S & M adept. Neglect of these very real differences has sometimes hobbled the effectiveness of gay and lesbian activist organizations, which tend to assume a greater social homogeneity than actually exists.

What remains is a sense of pluralism. Here the second component, "style" is important. As in the case of the Gothic, the Mannerist, and the Baroque styles in art history, one can recognize diversity without insisting that any one manifestation be honored as the norm.

Lifestyles and the Consumer Society. All these caveats aside, the rise of a plurality of lifestyles seems to presuppose the existence of a relatively wealthy consumer society. Amazon tribesmen do not have a choice of lifestyles. The affirmation of a lifestyle entails conspicuous consumption and conspicuous leisure. Moreover, this pattern cannot be simply treated in class terms, for it reflects a symbolic mode of existence that goes beyond mere socioeconomic status. Adopting a lifestyle proclaims one's value system and one's personal self-definition to the world at large. Hence the term "alternative lifestyle," which connotes that its bearer dissents from the conventional wisdom of society's mainstream. In this sense a lifestyle may be a new form of heresy, one expressed in conduct rather than formal belief system.

A lifestyle includes modes of behavior, speech, dress, thought, and social attitudes that define a segment of the population and serve as a model for those who seek acceptance by the peer group. At the same time it may have an individual aspect that serves to distinguish the subject from others of his social class and ethnic group; this phenomenon is seen, for example, in some types of teenage rebellion. Having a lifestyle is regarded as a major undertaking, requiring a huge investment of the subject's resources of time, energy, and money; it is the outcome of a process of selection from the multitude of consumer goods and cultural activities offered to the citizen of an industrial country by the marketers of such commodities. The lifestyles of celebrities, publicized as they are by the mass media, become the models imitated by the less rich and famous. The media, especially television, films, and glossy magazines, play a decisive catalytic role in launching new trends. And since sexual activity is an important part of adults' leisure, homosexuality is a determining factor in the lifestyle of many, though not all, participants in the gay subculture of the United States and Western Europe.

The Gay Lifestyle. Attainment of increased leisure and of greater discretionary income undoubtedly furthered the emergence of the contemporary gay lifestyle. The earlier part of this century witnessed a clandestine homosexual subculture in the big cities of the Western world, but it was the gay liberation movement of the late 1960s that created a self-conscious public with its own media and its own social identity. The rejection of heterosexuality with all that it implied—including participation in activities traditionally defined as appropriate for male–female couples—was matched by the growth of a new set of values and standards shared by the emerging gay world of metropolitan
America. A characteristic style of dress, patronage of particular bars, bathhouses, and resorts, subscription to the gay mass media, and participation in community events of a more or less political content were the criteria of a gay lifestyle. At the same time a lifestyle could also be symbolic behavior aimed at attracting sexual partners of one’s preference.

The hallmarks of the gay lifestyle of the 1970s were: living as a single adult, or in a casual union with a partner of the same sex that could be terminated at will; freedom from the obligations of conventional heterosexual marriage; fashions of dress and coiffure that marked the subject as part of the gay subculture; a level of discretionary income considerably above the norm for a heterosexual couple; acceptance of sexual experimentation and promiscuity if not as the norm, at least as behavior to be accepted in others without criticism; and periodic attendance at demonstrations, rallies, meetings, and similar events that brought together diverse strata of the gay community on specific occasions such as the annual Gay Pride Day marches in major cities.

A given lifestyle may be a slavish copy of behavior which the individual has been led by the media to deem appropriate for himself, or it may be an expression of an individuality that approaches the realm of the creative in private life. The media produced in the metropolitan areas and the celebrities whose fame extends beyond the gay subculture into the larger society serve as foci of lifestyle values that radiate into the hinterland and across national boundaries. Publications such as the Advocate in the United States and Gai pied in France disseminate the values of the gay lifestyle throughout their respective countries, usually to an upscale readership. It is significant that although the United States developed a homosexual movement well after Germany and the Netherlands, it was the American popular culture of the 1960s (disdainfully termed “cocacolonization”) by some European intellectuals] which proved the vehicle for the spread of a worldwide gay lifestyle patterned on the American example. The reception of this subculture was part of the continuing Americanization of Western Europe and the Third World in the 1970s, and of the spread of a consumption-oriented, pleasure-seeking way of life. Abatement of fears of venereal disease and of legal prosecution for one’s sexual activity contributed to the tacit acceptance of a markedly hedonistic lifestyle, which includes drug usage, frequent change of sexual partners, and a restless search for new diversions and gratifications. In this respect the gay subculture perpetuated the tradition that had originated in the bohemia of the nineteenth century, as well as the “alternative lifestyles” that came into vogue with the radical wave of the Vietnam War era.

Recent Changes. Only with the threat of AIDS in the 1980s did a monogamous homosexual lifestyle gain in popularity and achieve for a certain part of the gay community the status of a norm. Also, as conservative values displaced the liberal or even radical ones of the late 1960s, the forces shaping Western social attitudes began to affect the behavior of the denizens of the gay subculture. But the consciousness of being part of a minority—one whose conduct differs significantly from that of the heterosexual majority; whose sexual activity is still strongly tabooed in the eyes of many; and whose values deviate markedly from the traditional norm—continues to shape the lifestyle of the homosexual.

To be sure, the homosexual lifestyle is not monolithic, and shows contrasts between coupled and single individuals, between leather adepts and those who prefer “vanilla sex.” As the foregoing discussion has indicated, the relative importance of these “sublifestyles” in the mix has shifted over time, and further changes may be expected.
Conclusion. The choice of a lifestyle is one of the freedoms that modern society accords to its members. Premodern societies often prescribed the behavior of an individual on the basis of social class, family position, and age so rigorously as nearly to obliterate the personality of the subject. The atomization of society, the emancipation of the adult from the tutelage of the extended family, and the constant drive of the global economic system to find markets for new objects of consumption—all these have contributed to the emergence of variegated lifestyles as behavioral options for the citizen of the contemporary world. The gay lifestyle owes its viability in turn to the freeing of sexual morality from the narrow limits of previous centuries, and to the emergence from clandestinity of an "alternative culture" that could openly disdain many of the norms of the still intolerant larger society.


Warren Johansson

LLANGOLLEN, LADIES OF

The Irishwomen Lady Eleanor Butler (1739-1829) and Sarah Ponsonby (1755-1831) enjoyed a relationship that lasted over fifty years, during which time they became celebrities whose fidelity was deeply admired. Lady Eleanor, who came from a noble family that had retained its Catholicism, was educated in a convent in France, at a time when "particular friendships" were easily tolerated. Returning to Ireland, she showed no interest in heterosexual marriage and immersed herself in books. In 1768, however, she met Sarah Ponsonby, a member of a well-to-do Dublin family, who was then only thirteen. Over the years their friendship ripened through visits and correspondence. Finally, in 1778, they decided to elope. After a first attempt failed, they succeeded in making their way to Wales. After inspecting the splendid Welsh landscapes together, they settled the following year in a rustic cottage [Plas Newydd] near Llangollen, which was to remain the site of their "retirement" for the rest of their lives.

The ladies immediately set themselves a program of regular life patterns and self-improvement—their "system" as they termed it. In an era before mass communications they bought books voraciously, and read to each other daily. Literature, languages, and geography were among the subjects they addressed. Their favorite author was Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who influenced their romantic cult of nature and the sublime. Attentive observation of the changing seasons was combined with astute management of the farm. In fact, it was probably the attachment of the ladies to the cult of nature, a dominant trend of late eighteenth-century sensibility, that served to validate their relationship in the eyes of contemporaries. Although lesbianism was known (and usually condemned) in this period, it tended to be associated with racy urban environments, especially the world of the theatre. Because of their birth and exemplary lifestyle, a mantle of respectability protected the ladies of Llangollen for all their lives.

They carried on an enormous correspondence, and could be sharp with their friends if replies were not immediately forthcoming. In time they attracted such visitors as Lady Caroline Lamb and Josiah Wedgewood. William Wordsworth and Robert Southey wrote poetry under their roof. In addition to the letters, the lives of the ladies are recorded in diaries. In these they referred to each other as "beloved." In modern terms theirs was a "butch-fem" relationship, inasmuch as Lady Eleanor was somewhat masculine in appearance and usually took the initiative in decision making, while the younger Sarah sweetly followed her lead. Disputes were rare. The surviving writings contain no hint of genital relations, but this lack of direct evidence does not necessarily mean that they sublimated their "passion" (a term they were not afraid to use). In an era
before the medically inspired "morbidityification" of romantic friendship between women, theirs was a true marriage of the mind, spirit, and affections. Ever steadfast in their observance of the principles that they had adopted, they had a friendship that captured the imagination of their contemporaries in a way never before achieved, at least in the English-speaking world. In an age of transition, the art of living of the Ladies of Llangollen may offer an object lesson.


Evelyn Gettone

LOITERING

American law has tended to criminalize loitering with intent to commit a lewd or lascivious act or loitering with the purpose of soliciting or engaging in sexually deviant conduct. If such conduct constitutes a crime, as in the 25 states in which sodomy laws have not been repealed, the First Amendment does not protect solicitation for the purpose of a criminal act.

States that proscribe loitering with intent of solicitation do not require the uttering of the forbidden words. "Prior restraint" may thus cause people not to linger in certain places to talk to someone out of fear of having their conduct misinterpreted by a vice officer. Such a law is too broad to be constitutional and unconstitutionally limits free speech. Thus a demurrer, a challenge to the constitutionality of the law, can often prevail against this inchoate charge. It is frequently the case that repeated demurrers are required over many years before judges begin seriously to examine the constitutionality of the law.


William A. Percy

Lombroso, Cesare

(1836–1909)

Italian criminologist. A descendant of a Sephardic Jewish family, Lombroso was a physician who became the founder of modern criminology. Following contemporary thinking which stressed the evolutionary and innate factors in human behavior, Lombroso developed the theory of the born criminal (delinquente nato), an atavistic throwback to earlier stages of human evolution. In line with the belief propagated by the German biologist Ernst Haeckel (1834–1919) that ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny, Lombroso believed that the born criminal, like the savage, lacks the higher nervous centers that restrain the lower animal instincts, so that he freely engages in mutilation, torture, promiscuity, pederasty, tattooing of the body, and similar practices abhorrent to civilized human beings; such individuals could be identified by the stig mata of degeneration on their bodies.

The school of criminal anthropology created by Lombroso, with journals in Italian, French, and German, reached the peak of its influence just at the time when sexual inversion became a topic of controversy in psychiatric and legal circles. Although Lombroso had read Arrigo Tamassia's paper of 1878 at the time of its publication and approved its conclusions, in the debate over homosexuality he proved a bitter foe of toleration. At the International Congress of Criminal Anthropology in Amsterdam in 1901, he was one of those who, outraged by Arnold Aletrino's paper on "The Social Situation of the Homosexual," denounced the invert as a degenerate who should be thrown into prison if he acts out his diseased urges. His colleague in Vienna, Moritz Benedict, even urged that homosexuals who would not abstain from their criminal practices be castrated. In later controversy Lombroso was opposed by the German psychiatrist Paul Näcke [d. 1913], who calmly answered all his arguments on the basis of his own far greater familiarity with the subject. Also,
in France the Archives d'anthropologie criminelle published a series of articles by Marc-André Raffalovich and others who combatted the notion of homosexuality as a disease.

Long decried by the environmentalist school, Lombroso remains a disputed thinker in the history of criminology and constitutional biology. Since the Mendelian laws of heredity were unknown until the very end of his lifetime, his own pioneering work was often impressionistic and based on phenotypes rather than genotypes. In the 1970s and 1980s Lombroso's views attracted new interest, suggesting that something of value may be retrieved from his otherwise time-bound conceptual scheme.


Warren Johansson

LONDON

The capital first of England, then of the United Kingdom and of the British Empire, London has played a major role in the history of homosexuality in Western Europe. The establishment of a unified monarchy in the wake of the victory of William the Conqueror (1066) laid the foundations for London's supremacy. Although it was never a major center of university life or of the church, London still had the court, the great merchants, and later the press and the coffee houses, the publishers and the theatre that were the basis of English cultural and literary life. As England emerged from the backwardness and insignificance, as well as the internecine strife, of the medieval period and created its merchant fleet and overseas empire, London grew into a world-class city. The dialect of London became the literary norm of modern English, which after England's victory in the Seven Years War (1763) achieved the status of a world language and a medium of international discourse.

The Middle Ages. Richard of Devizes' Chronicle of the Times of King Richard the First includes an account of the underworld subcultures of London in 1192 that mentions at least four classes of individuals who certainly or probably engaged in homosexual activity: glabriones, "smooth-cheeked, pretty, effeminate boys," pusiones, "little hustlers, kept boys," molles, "effeminates," mascularii, "man-lovers," a term found only in this passage in all of Medieval Latin, through plainly deriving from the masculorum concubitores of 1 Corinthians 6:9. Thus even in the early Plantagenet period London had its erotic subculture frequented by those who ignored or defied the official norms of the Church in the sphere of sexual morality.

The Renaissance. The Tudor era saw the enactment of the first statute against homosexual behavior, 25 Henry VIII c. 6, which ordained the death penalty—by hanging, not by burning at the stake—for "the detestable and abominable Vice of Buggery." It is interesting to note that English is the only modern language in which buggery has remained the legal term for the crime in question; the idioms of the Continent all discarded a word that smacked too much of medieval intolerance. But the Renaissance, which brought the cultural life of the capital to unsurpassed heights, saw the revival of the homoeroticism that had inspired much of classical literature. The theatres at which the plays of Marlowe, Shakespeare, and the lesser dramatists of that time were performed had all-male casts, and by tradition the roles of women were taken by boys, so that an ambiance of sexual ambiguity and double-entendre hung over an institution that was constantly assailed for "immorality." Christopher Marlowe wrote one play, Edward the Second (1594), about a homosexual king of England, and another, The Massacre at Paris (1590), which inserts the French king Henri III and his minions into the episode of the St. Bartholomew's Eve slaughter of the Hu-
guenots. He even ascribed to Jesus Christ an erotic interest in John, the beloved disciple. Shakespeare composed several plays with the motif of the boy actor who appears first as a woman and then in the guise of his own sex, is courted by a man and by a woman, and finally won by the former. The court of James I, after whom the fundamentalists' favorite translation of the Bible is named, had a homoerotic atmosphere owing to the king's fondness for male favorites who achieved positions of wealth and influence thanks to their royal patron.

The Restoration. The Civil War and the Commonwealth were followed by the Restoration, during which the first signs of a modern homosexual subculture emerge. The social stratification and anonymity of the metropolis facilitated the growth of a clandestine network of meeting places for individuals with unconventional desires. Restoration drama, the novels of Henry Fielding and John Cleland, and the prints of William Hogarth have given the London of that era a reputation for sensuality that contrasted with the sober life of the English countryside. In the late 1720s London was scandalized by the discovery of homosexual clubs, molly houses, in which some men would don women's clothing and even go through mock marriages. In 1717 the Swiss entrepreneur John James Heidegger introduced fashionable masquerade balls where men dressed as women, women as men; at such affairs it was possible to engage in same-sex amorous dalliance which could be disguised as mistaking the true gender of one's partner. Also, wealthy Englishmen began to travel abroad in search of erotic pleasures, in particular to Venice, which had become the Las Vegas of late seventeenth-century Europe, and which may have supplied the name of the condom (from Italian guantone "gauntlet"), first mass produced and sold in London from 1705 onwards.

Renewed Intolerance. Although burning at the stake was never the penalty for buggery in England, a fate in some ways even worse lay in wait for the convicted sodomite. Such culprits were exposed in the pillory to abuse and assaults of the mob, which could freely pelt the guilty parties with filth and missiles of every kind. The belief that Sodom and Gomorrah had been destroyed because of the sexual depravity of their inhabitants justified these cruel penalties in the eyes of the populace. The Napoleonic wars saw a renewed outburst of intolerance, which resulted in numerous prosecutions. In 1810 a homosexual rendezvous on Vere Street in London was raided by the police, and nine men were subsequently convicted and placed in the pillory, where the commons vented their wrath on them in a manner that bespoke the intensity of popular hatred for those guilty of "unnatural crimes." Even when Sir Robert Peel asked Parliament to reform the archaic criminal laws of England in 1828, he urged that the proofs of the offense of buggery be made fewer to facilitate conviction, while the death penalty was not reduced to life imprisonment until 1861.

The Victorian Era. But homosexual life persisted beneath the surface of London's commercial and industrial life and the Victorian respectability of the capital of a great empire "on which the sun never sets." Homosexuals of the upper social strata rubbed shoulders with hustlers from the depths of the criminal underworld, a phenomenon so aberrant from the standpoint of a class society that as late as the middle of the twentieth century the police could be moved to an investigation merely by evidence of associations of this kind. In 1889 a scandal occurred in which a house in Cleveland Street was discovered to be a place of assignation for homosexual clients and telegraph boys who served them as prostitutes. Oscar Wilde's ruin was also caused by his involvement with this criminal milieu when it was revealed by his arch-enemy, the Marquess of Queensbury, in 1895.
The Twentieth Century. The hypocrisy with which English culture enveloped the phenomenon of homosexuality long obscured the facts of this subculture in the London of the twentieth century. Although English law was as punitive as German, no organized gay movement analogous to the one in Berlin could develop in the British capital, even if circles like the Bloomsbury one could quietly cultivate a homosexual ethos in a rarified milieu inaccessible to the British masses. The theatre and other cultural institutions were enclaves of homosexual influence, but they always had to defer publicly to the conventional norms of sexual morality. The conviction of Sir John Gielgud for public importuning in 1953 lifted the lid for once on this covert phenomenon.

The campaign for adoption of the recommendations of the Wolfenden Report was too limited in its scope and the roster of its supporters to affect the life of the average homosexual in London, which after the austerity of the immediate postwar period changed into the center of a vibrant, influential mass culture. The Beatles and the Rolling Stones were symbols of the world-wide impact of this new wave, which was paralleled by legalized gambling and Carnaby Street fashions that shaped the image of "swinging London." The plays of Joe Orton (who was, however, murdered by his lover in 1967) caught much of the wit and nonchalant cynicism of this era. During this decade a commercial gay subculture arose, with its base in the roaring pubs of South Kensington and Hampstead. The police continued even after the law reform of 1967 to harass individuals whom they caught in public places such as parks and "cottages" (toilets).

The Stonewall Rebellion in New York in 1969 created American political models such as Gay Activists Alliance which were then imported into the mother country, crystallizing first in a national gay organization, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE). Those who saw this group as too conservative and middle-class set up more radical formations, at first under anarchist and then increasingly under Marxist auspices. During the 1970s the London-based Gay News (now defunct) ranked as one of the world's three or four leading gay newspapers.

The economic setbacks experienced by the country caused rising social tensions, marked by racial disturbances in London and elsewhere. While several London boroughs gave direct financial aid to gay and lesbian organizations, a rising tide of homophobia was abetted by manipulation of the AIDS crisis through sensational articles in the tabloid newspapers. The new political situation—including a solid Conservative majority in Parliament—led to the passage of Clause 28 of the Local Government Act (1988), which forbade local governments to do anything to "promote" homosexuality, yet technical errors in the drafting of the bill rendered it at least partly inoperative. With all the ambivalence of its history, contemporary London is firmly established as a major center of homosexual life.


Ward Houser

LORCA, FEDERICO GARCÍA (1898–1936)

Poet and dramatist, Spain's most famous author after Cervantes. Born in the southern province of Granada and influenced by the Andalusian revival of the early twentieth century, Lorca lived from the age of 20 in Madrid. In the famous "Residencia de Estudiantes," he met and collaborated with such future celebrities as Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí, with the latter of whom he had an amorous relationship of several years' duration.

An emotional and literary crisis in 1928 led to an extended visit to New
York and Cuba in 1929-30. With the birth of the liberal Spanish republic in 1931, Lorca moved from intellectual to mainstream circles. The government sponsored his traveling theatre troupe, "La Barraca," which took Spanish classics to isolated small towns. His own plays were produced with success, and he began to receive a significant income from royalties.

The revolt against the Spanish republic in 1936 brought Lorca's assassination by a semi-official death squad. An extensive literature exists concerning the mechanics of and motives for his death, which immediately became an international incident and a symbol of fascist stupidity and anti-intellectualism. Lorca's leftist sympathies, friends, and relatives would be sufficient to explain his execution, but much evidence suggests that his sexual orientation, activities, and writings were at least as important.

Lorca is an exceptional case of an author subject to self-censorship and, after his death, to deliberate manipulation and "cleansing" of his image by surviving family members. As a result his works and thought have been inaccurately discussed, and they remain imperfectly known and in some cases all but unknown. At the time of his death Lorca was best known for his Gypsy Ballads, still his most popular and accessible, yet somewhat unrepresentative book. Lesser-known volumes of poetry, and those dramas found unobjectionable by his heirs, were published or reprinted in 1938. His central but difficult Poet in New York, incorporating an Ode to Walt Whitman privately published in 1933, first appeared in 1940; The House of Bernarda Alba, suppressed by his family, in 1945. In 1954 his family "rediscovered" the early but important drama The Butterfly's Evil Trick ("butterfly" is a Spanish slang term for homosexual). Only in 1974 was the long-unavailable Impressions and Landscapes reprinted. The overtly pederastic and Pirandellian The Public was published from an incomplete draft MS, over his relatives' opposition, in 1976; the final text is still unavailable. (The play was very well received when premiered in Spain in 1987; its title has been borrowed for a major Spanish theatrical magazine.) The Sonnets of Dark Love were withheld by his family and published clandestinely in 1983. Important juvenilia are only slowly being made available, and of his extensive correspondence only that part without reference to sexual themes has been published.

Lorca was given to discussing works in advance of or during composition. Among those he mentioned are The Destruction of Sodom, in which frustration of homosexual desire causes incest, The Blackball, "the tragedy of a homosexual in conflict with society," and The Beautiful Beast, a treatment of zoophily. These exist only as tiny fragments or in the published recollections of his friends.

It is difficult and risky to outline Lorca's thought without full access to his works, but it is known in part. Central to his writings is the power, universality, and goodness of the sexual and reproductive instinct, and opposition to forces—especially the Catholic church—which repress and frustrate it. In his plays, many of which have female protagonists, he treats the frustrated desire for offspring; a long religious poem presents a beautiful crucified Christ as a figure of sexual liberation. A second current in his thought is the need for spiritual, cultural, and economic reform of Spanish and world society. Finally, there is the theme of isolation and melancholy. He explores poetically problems of self-acceptance and relating to a hostile world, the difficulty of transcending isolation through love, and a general existential and irresolvable anguish.


Daniel Eisenberg

**LOS ANGELES**

Today the Los Angeles metropolitan area is believed to be the twelfth most populous conurbation in the world. The growth leading to this concentration is the result of several factors, notably the mild Mediterranean climate, which attracted immigration as well as certain industries not dependent on proximity to raw materials, such as motion picture production and aircraft manufacture.

A number of elements account for the emergence of Los Angeles as one of the leading urban foci of a homophile subculture by the mid-twentieth century. The long stretches of fine beach on the Pacific Ocean, coupled with long summer seasons of good, sunny weather eventually incubated a subculture of bodybuilders and physique photographers that became well-known around the country. Another factor appears to have been a spinoff from the film industry: like the theatre from which it in part derived, Hollywood used the talents of costume and set designers, makeup artists, and hairdressers—all vocations in which the homophile is believed to be represented in disproportionately high numbers. Another factor may have been religious diversity. Large numbers of Christians affiliated with a great diversity of Protestant denominations, as well as a number of Jews, and some immigrants from Asia who were adherents of Buddhism and other faiths, flocked to California in the latter half of the nineteenth century. As a result, no one denomination established such a hegemony as to be able to dictate moral standards. While same-sex relations were generally anathema to the various denominations for many years, the foundation was laid for increasing tolerance on the part of several of them.

Los Angeles developed its port of San Pedro beginning at the turn of the century, and facilities for maritime commerce emerged at the same time as those to serve the needs of the United States Navy. While many seafarers, whether civilian or military, sought out prostitutes or girlfriends during their time on shore, Los Angeles and its port district of San Pedro and maritime suburb, Long Beach, were no different from similarly situated communities in the development of opportunities for same-sex encounters involving sailors.

**Victorian and Pre-World War I Periods, 1848–1917.** The annexation of California to the United States pursuant to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 led to the formation of state government in 1849 and admission to the Union the following year. One of the first acts of the new State’s Legislature was to pass "An Act Concerning Crimes and Punishments" on April 16, 1850. Section 48 stated: "The infamous crime against nature, either with man or beast, shall subject the offender to be punished by imprisonment in the State Prison for a term not less than five years, and which may extend to life." This was derived from Field’s Draft New York Penal Code. The 1880 Federal Census found three persons incarcerated in California for "crimes against nature." In an important
case, People v. Boyle (1897), the California Supreme Court held that a sexual assault in the “victim’s” mouth was insufficient to support a conviction. In 1915 this perceived defect was remedied by criminalizing fellatio and cunnilingus.

In 1914, the City of Long Beach, a Los Angeles suburb, hired undercover detectives who arrested over thirty men in the restrooms of the local plunge and elsewhere on “vagrancy” charges. This charge has been used in California, since a 1903 amendment to the “vagrancy” law, to prosecute same-sex activity where actual intercourse sufficient for “crime against nature” could not be proven. Most interestingly, two defendants pled not guilty, obtained jury trials, and were acquitted after testimony suggested entrapment or even perjury on the part of the police. The Los Angeles Times editorialized against “sodomites,” but showed startling familiarity with the work of Edward Carpenter, mentioned historical figures such as Julius Caesar, King James I, and Oscar Wilde, and used the word “homo-sexuality”—possibly one of the earliest appearances of the term in the American mass media.

The World Wars and Interwar Period, 1917–1945. During the interwar period, same-sex cruising locales became clearly identified; the two best known in Los Angeles were Pershing Square, a park occupying a city block in the center of downtown Los Angeles, and Westlake Park [renamed General Douglas MacArthur Park during World War II], four to six times as large, a mile and a half to the west. These urban parks presented an ideal setting for casual pickups as well as prostitution, same-sex and otherwise. Pershing Square, in particular, was conveniently located to bars and cheap hotels where management was not so choosy about their clientele, and homosexuals would be tolerated when vice enforcement was not intense (by the thirties, the first identifiably “gay” bars can be noted). For the more affluent, one or more private clubs in Hollywood facilitated diverse sexual activity. Other venues for same-sex encounters included the San Pedro and Long Beach entertainment districts which attracted sailors and those who were interested in meeting them. Both World Wars took men away from small towns to larger cities, such as Los Angeles, where social pressures to conform diminished and same-sex environments multiplied.

The Postwar Period, 1945–1969. The social turmoil resulting from World War II included the throwing together in same-sex environments of large numbers of servicemen and servicewomen, with the inevitable development of physical and emotional relations. Many who “came out” in this way during the war never returned to their home towns, but settled in large cities where they could live a life more compatible with their sexual orientation.

The late forties saw the first known lesbian periodical in America, Vice Versa, edited by “Lisa Ben,” the pseudonym of Edyth Eyde. In 1950 and 1951, the Mattachine Society was organized in Los Angeles, the country’s first large-scale homophile organization. It organized numerous discussion groups and struck a radical blow for civil rights in the spring of 1952 when it organized a legal defense for one of its members, Dale Jennings, who had been arrested by a vice officer for solicitation; Jennings got off. Internal politics led to a reorganization of Mattachine in 1953; later, it was based in San Francisco. Meanwhile, ONE, Inc. was founded in Los Angeles in late 1952, with a primary goal of publishing. ONE Magazine first appeared in January of 1953, and was the first successful American magazine by and for the homophile.

Gay bar life was facilitated by a California Supreme Court decision establishing the right of an establishment to operate, even if its clientele was predominantly or even exclusively homosexual. Sex itself was legally anathema; “crime against nature” was punishable by one year to life in prison after 1952. Bath-
houses catering to a gay trade were subject to harassment; an appellate decision of the mid-fifties upheld the Los Angeles Police Commission’s closing of the Sultan Baths, a few doors from Pershing Square, citing numerous arrests and convictions of male patrons for sexual activity. During the sixties, organizing increased. The Council on Religion and the Homophile, opening lines of communication with religious leaders, presaged the later founding in the Los Angeles area of the Metropolitan Community Church and groups within existing religious denominations. The Advocate began in 1967 as the newsletter of the Los Angeles homophile group, PRIDE.

After Stonewall. The period marked by the Stonewall Rebellion in New York was one of continued building on past activity in Los Angeles. A Gay Community Services Center was organized. The Homophile Effort for Legal Protection was formed to help in the courts, and the California legislature legalized private, noncommercial, consensual sex between adults in 1975.

The seventies featured continued growth of traditional meeting places such as bars and baths, but opportunities for socializing in less sexually-charged contexts also burgeoned, including groups formed to enable businesspeople, or members of specific professions or occupations to congregate. Athletic, sports, and musical organizations proliferated. These were national trends, but they manifested themselves in Los Angeles at least as early as anywhere else. Political organizations, Democratic, Republican, and nonpartisan, appeared. The eighties would become known as the decade of AIDS, and Los Angeles was not far behind New York and San Francisco in being a target of this disease. Community organizations were soon mounting a strong response to the challenge, however.

Scholarly pursuits were not neglected; ONE Institute celebrated thirty years of work on a 3 1/2-acre campus, granting the world’s first Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Homophile Studies. 

David G. Cameron

LOUIS XIII (1601–1643)

King of France at the time of the Thirty Years War. The question has been argued whether or not Louis XIII was homosexual. He was, remarkably enough, the son of Henri IV, known as “le Vert-Galant” because of his passion for women, and father of the equally heterosexual Louis XIV. Physically Louis was sickly and subject to insomnia, in character he was sulky, fretful, selfish, and obdurate to the point of cruelty. His childhood environment was not one that would have turned him toward heterosexuality. His father and mother quarreled constantly. The spectacle of his father’s unceasing debauchery, the presence of bastard half-brothers whom he hated, and their mothers—his father’s former mistresses—combined with the heavy burden of power shared with an ambitious mother, Marie de Médicis, did not make for a model to emulate. As a consequence the child’s sensibilities were repelled by the lasciviousness of the court, but at the age of ten he developed a passionate attachment for a young nobleman, Charles d’Albert de Luynes, keeper of the king’s hunting birds. Luynes was a handsome man of twenty-three, virile and athletic, and the passionate attachment of the boy for an older servant was a classic homoerotic liaison which lasted for ten years and reached the point where the sovereign could make no decision without consulting his friend. The only unanswered question is whether the ambitious and self-centered Luynes took advantage of the king’s affection.

An arranged dynastic marriage with the Spanish Infanta, Anne of Austria, was a matter of political expediency and of amorous failure: Luynes had to carry him against his will to the bridal chamber where he had to “force himself” twice, and for more than twenty years the marriage
remained without issue—this at a time when contraceptive devices were uncommon. The celebrated Cardinal Richelieu, since 1623–24 the Prime Minister, understood his sovereign's character perfectly, as befitted a statesman of his caliber, and so favored the friendship that sprang up between Louis and François de Barradas, an equerry of the royal stables, stupid and otherwise meritless, but handsome, athletic, and virile. According to Tallement des Réaux, the king was accused of "countless indecencies with him." After a break caused by the marriage of his favorite, the king found solace with Claude de Saint-Simon (father of the author of the Memoirs), and then in 1638, with an eighteen-year-old boy, Henri de Cinq-Mars, who within a few months rose from captain in the guards to Grand Master of the Wardrobe and Grand Equerry of France. For a time it was an idyllic love affair—but it proved one-sided, as Cinq-Mars saw in the king only a source of endless favors and gifts. So followed three years of jealous turmoil and heartbreak for Louis, which ended only when Cinq-Mars made the fatal error of plotting against Richelieu, who presented the monarch with written proof of his treason. Cinq-Mars was beheaded in September 1642 in the Place des Terreaux in Lyon. The king, neurasthenic and melancholy, lived but a year longer.

A puritan by natural rigidity and by the religious training which he received in the era of the Counterreformation, Louis XIII was also homosexual, and his sexual orientation is the key to his character. His passionate submission to the virile Luynes was a prelude to the domination which Richelieu by other means was to exert over him. He had many effeminate traits: weakness of character, the need to be dominated, jealousy, and pettiness. His love for women was never attended by sexual desire, a circumstance that led to his being named "Louis the Chaste"—an example of what V. V. Rozanov called "the psychological 'I cannot' masquerading as the moral 'I will not.'" But if he lacked the qualities of a true head of state and a great king, Cardinal Richelieu made up for these failings in his role as Prime Minister, and controlling Louis XIII as he did, he used his position to bring France to the height of its power in European affairs under the Old Regime.


Warren Johansson

LOVE

Unstintingly, modern philosophers and novelists have analyzed love, while creators of high and popular art never tire in their celebration of it. It goes without saying that the bulk of these discussions concern heterosexual love. Yet the ancient Greeks, from whom all our thinking in the matter ultimately derives, were as interested [if not more so] in homosexual love as in the heterosexual variety.

The Greek Contribution. The Greek language makes a sharp distinction between love as affection (philia) and love as desire (eros). Philia is directed mainly toward family members and friends, while eros is the more intense form, which would include, in our terms, both romantic love and lust. Homer describes eros as a kind of appetite, to be assuaged in much the same manner as thirst and hunger are slaked by drinking and eating. Although this notion of love as appetite survives even today, most of those who have experienced love would be unwilling to leave the matter there. Nor did the Greeks. The archaic lyric poets of the seventh and sixth centuries B.C., who were the first to portray subjective emotional life in all of its bittersweet intensity, presented a concept of love as a piercing experience that transformed the very core of one’s being. As the Lesbian poet Sappho sang, "Some say that the most beautiful thing on the black earth
is an army of horsemen, others an army of footsoldiers, others a fleet of ships; but I say it is the person you love." The poets understood that love could be a mania, depriving the lover of food and sleep and making him tear his hair and garments. In pederastic love a dynamic of reversal often occurred in which the superior partner, the erastes, became the slave of his beloved, the eromenos. Hence the theme of the tyranny of love. Pederasty also focused on love’s transience, for the beloved speedily lost his attractiveness at the first growth of beard.

In the Symposium Plato presents the myth of human origins from double beings of which living men and women are but sundered halves. The longing to return to this primal unity is “the desire and pursuit of the whole.” The ultimate impossibility of this quest is an apt metaphor for the unrealizability of love’s final goals.

But human love may be the starting point for an intellectual and spiritual endeavor which carries us up through a “ladder of being” to the ultimate contemplation of the good. Plato’s concept (which is not identical with the later notion of “Platonic love”) is the starting point of the whole tradition of idealization in love. Although later commentators tend to gloss the matter over, it is clear that in his discussion of the wonders of eros Plato and his colleagues have in mind exclusively the love of boys.

Rome and the Middle Ages. Reacting perhaps against Platonic idealization, the Roman poets Lucretius and Ovid advocated a down-to-earth concept of love as practical satisfaction. Lucretius saw human love as an extension of animal copulation, even of agricultural activity.

The writers of the New Testament abhorred what they regarded as the excessively carnal concept of love among the Greeks and Romans, even preferring the vulgar word agape for divinely sanctioned love. Agape could not include homosexual love, which was henceforth to be outlawed. In any event, however, the new concept did not oust the Greco-Roman one, and the two competed in subsequent centuries. In medieval Europe the ancient concept, as transmitted by Ovid, enjoyed a revival, and this revival is one of the chief ingredients of the “courty love” of the Provençal troubadours and those who came after them. A curious feature of the Provençal lyrics is the masculine form of address to the beloved—midons instead of madonna. If it is true that troubadour poetry was influenced by Moorish poetry from Spain, this address may be a relic of the conventions of the pederastic poetry that flourished in all the Islamic lands. There is also a considerable body of medieval pederastic poetry in Latin, including debates as to the respective merits of male and female love objects.

The Renaissance and After. The Italian Renaissance, permeated with neoplatonism and the revival of astrology, saw love as the product of cosmic forces. In human affairs its actions could be compared to magic and sorcery; hence the “Circean” concept of love as a matter of charms, spells, and enchantments. In Renaissance plays and epic poems (such as Ariosto’s Orlando Furioso) cross-dressing scenes permitted some exploration of same-sex love.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, romantic poets and novelists saw love under the sign of illusion, but a fruitful illusion that brings the lover into contact with the infinite and transcendent. In Freudian psychoanalysis the sense of illusion persists, but without the ennobling idealization.

One of the most profound twentieth-century analysts of love was the French homosexual novelist Marcel Proust. Working his way through the still predominately negative concepts of homosexuality that he inherited, he saw much commonality between homosexual and heterosexual love. The imperfect match between the lover’s concept of the love object and the actuality of him made for complexity, as did changes over time.
With the implementation of the "sexual revolution" in the 1970s, romantic love seemed to take second place to lust, but the AIDS crisis has helped it to make a comeback. With the relentless propagation of the common coin of love through the mass media, gay men and lesbians have inevitably internalized much of the sentimental lore of heterosexual love, so that there is now a genre of "romance" novels aimed specifically at this market. The popular psychologist Dorothy Ten-nov attempted to introduce a new term, limerence, but it is unclear that this word represents any conceptual advance; it is simply romantic love once again. Love, it seems, is a perennial theme, and one which retains much of its mystery intact.


Wayne R. Dynes

LOVER

In today's homosexual usage the term "lover" designates one's long-term partner. If one is invited to a social event, it would seem reasonable to ask "May I bring my lover?" just as others would say "May I bring my spouse?" Some have objected to the word as placing too much emphasis on the sexual side. Interestingly, a similar problem of designation occurs among unmarried heterosexual couples who need a word to describe their opposite number in the dyad.

In former times heterosexuals recognized a pattern of relationship between lover and mistress for a bond not sanctioned by the law and without implying absolute fidelity. Neither homosexuals or lesbians ever seem to have adopted the word mistress, which has retained exclusively heterosexual connotations of amorous arrangements.

Dissatisfaction with the term lover in its current sense suggests several alternatives, but these seem scarcely happier. Fiancé seems too old-fashioned, and the implication that marriage will follow is not appropriate for gay men and lesbians. Paramour has acquired the negative, judgmental connotation of a temporary partner with purely physical interests. An expression derived from sociology, significant other, seems too long and pretentious, while partner may imply a business relationship, or conversely, a chance participant in a one-night stand. Some have therefore proposed life partner, an expression now making its way into obituaries as they increasingly disregard the taboo on mentioning the survivor of a homosexual couple arrangement.

Latin recognized both amator, "lover, paramour, devoted friend," and amans, "loving one, sweetheart." In English usage, French-derived amateur has become specialized in the sense of a lover of things (not persons), or a dilettante.

LOWELL, AMY LAWRENCE (1874–1925)

American poet. Born into a distinguished and wealthy family in Brookline, Massachusetts, Lowell was educated privately. For a brief period she was associated with Ezra Pound, but broke with him to go her own way. In fact her imagist poetry is quite different from that of Pound's circle.

Lowell described herself in her adolescent diary as "a great, rough, masculine, strong thing." Lacking beauty in her own perception, she confessed in that same diary that "I cannot help admiring [sic] and generally falling in love with, extreme beauty." Although she had very strong crushes on young males during that adolescent period, it was her crushes on her female friends that appear to have first led
to her writing poetry; one of her earliest extant poems came out of her adolescent crush on her girlfriend, "Louly W."

Amy Lowell's first published volume of poems, *A Dome of Many Coloured Glass* (1912), contains a number of seemingly homoerotic poems, addressed to two women. But the most significant body of her experiential love poems was written to and for the actress Ada Russell.

Amy Lowell first encountered Ada Russell in 1909 when the actress was traveling on a New England tour of *Dawn of a Tomorrow*. The two met again in Boston, in 1912, when Russell, playing the lead in *The Deep Purple*, appeared as a guest of honor at the Lunch Club, to which Lowell, then half-heartedly living the life of a Boston society woman, belonged. They spent part of the summer of 1912 together, and for the next two years the poet tried to convince the actress to live with her. This courtship is reflected in approximately 20 poems of *Sword Blades and Poppy Seed* (1914). Ada finally yielded to Amy's pursuit in the spring of 1914. She quit the stage and went to live with the poet in her Brookline mansion, Sevenels, ostensibly as her paid companion, but in fact as her mate. The two lived together until Amy's death in 1925.

Several of Lowell's later volumes contain love poems about the relationship between the two women, such as *Pictures of the Floating World* (1919) and two posthumous volumes, *What's O'Clock* (1925) and *Ballads for Sale* (1927). The 43 poems in the "Two Speak Together" section of *Pictures of a Floating World* are the best and most complete record of the love relationship between Amy Lowell and Ada Russell.

The usual critical observation that Lowell was overweight and unmarried, and that her work is a "knell of personal frustration . . . an effort to hide the bare walls of the empty chambers of her heart . . ." [Harvey Allen, *Saturday Review of Literature*, 1927] and the exposure of the heart of "a girlish, pathetic, and lonely woman, underneath [whose] . . . bumptious manner lies disappointment" [Winfield Townley Scott, *New England Quarterly*, 1935], is not borne out by the body of Lowell's poetry. The preponderance of her experiential poems suggest a life and a relationship that were extremely happy and productive. Typically, in "Thorn Pierce" Lowell talks about the world being dark and glazed, but another woman gives to her "fire,/And love to comfort, and speech to bind,/And the common things of morning and evening,/And the light of your lantern." In "Christmas Eve" she tells the other woman, "You have lifted my eyes, and made me whole,/And given me purpose, and held me faced/Toward the horizon you once had placed/As my aim's grand measure." "A Decade," the poem that celebrates the first ten years of their acquaintance, concludes "I am completely nourished." Lowell admitted to her acquaintances, such as John Livingston Lowes, that such love poems were about Ada.

In a scurrilous study published one year after Amy Lowell's death, Clement Wood argued that Lowell was not a good poet because many of her poems were homosexual; therefore, they did not "word a common cry of many hearts." Lowell, he concluded, may qualify "as an impassioned singer of her own desires; and she may well be laureate also of as many as stand beside her," but non-lesbian readers will find nothing in her verse (Amy Lowell, 1926).


**LUCIAN**

(ca. A.D. 120–ca. 185)

Greek writer. From Samosata on the Euphrates, Lucian traveled widely as a tutor and professional lecturer, delivering set pieces in Greek, though his native
tongue was Aramaic. He was surnamed "the blasphemer" according to Suda for telling absurd tales of the gods. At about the age of 40 he settled in Athens and gave up rhetoric to write philosophic Dialogues. Eventually, perhaps under Commodus, he became an imperial official in Egypt. He borrowed from Cynic wit, Menippean satire, mime, Old Attic Comedy, and (for his later Dialogues) from Plato. Practicing successively law, sculpture, and rhetoric, he exposed the charlatan in Alexander and the religious fanatic in Peregrinus, who becoming a Christian grew wealthy by donations from his duped coreligionists but abjured Christianity when he was released from prison where he was confined for fraud and ended by immolating himself at the Olympic games. Anticipating the concerted attack that would be organized by later imperial families, he characterized Christ as "that crucified sophist" and his followers as "unhappy men (who) have persuaded themselves that they will be immortal and live forever; wherefore they despise death and willingly sacrifice themselves" [Peregrinus, 13].

His Life of Alexander of Abounteichê: satirized a Pythagorean divine who, having become rich and famous through fraud in middle age, kept a harem of pretty young priests. Born about 105 in that Hellenized Black Sea port, Alexander, a tall, handsome, quick-witted youth, became the beloved of a quack physician from Tyana who had once followed Apollonius. Having learned and gotten all he could from the doctor, the unscrupulous youth joined an itinerant entertainer "practicing quackery and sorcery." He claimed descent from Perseus and mesmerized credulous audiences as a prophet of Asclepius, whose snakes, Alexander's pets, answered in verse questions submitted in writing for one drachma and two obols. Marcus Aurelius granted a new name to his native city (Ionopolis), which issued coins showing Alexander wearing his grandfather Asclepius' fillets.

Lucian questioned his contemporaries' received beliefs and without great originality proffered sound comments on art, literature, and history. He satirized Zeus and Ganymede, poking gentle fun at the Greek gods' pederastic loves. In pamphlets Lucian often accused even innocent men of homosexual acts, a tactic by his time standard in Greek (and Roman) oratory. Peregrinus, he charged, paid the poor parents of a youth he had corrupted three thousand drachmae to escape being hauled before the governor of Asia.

The ironically entitled True History is possibly the first gay science fiction. On a voyage into the Atlantic, the narrator is suddenly enveloped by a typhoon, which sweeps him up to the moon. Earth's satellite is inhabited by men only, and is engaged in a war with the sun. After distinguishing himself in combat, the hero returns to the moon, where the king magnanimously gives him his son the prince in marriage. Since there are no women, male babies are born in two ways: by parturition from the thigh (presumably after having been inseminated analy) or by planting the left testicle in the ground, whereupon the child grows out of the ground as part of a plant. Shorn of its homoeroticism this romance inspired Swift's Gulliver's Travels, the fantasies of Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-1655), and many later European tales of interplanetary flight.

The romance Lucius, based on the work of Lucius of Patrae, may be among Lucian's authentic works, but rather appears to be a gross summary of his elaboration of Lucius' work. On a visit to Thessaly, the protagonist witnesses the drug-induced transformation of his hostess into a bird. Taking a draught himself, he becomes an ass and undergoes various sexual abuses, being buggered by a randy master and having to copulate interminably with a nymphomaniac. Lucian indicated that some Greeks abhorred lesbianism: "Citing monstrous instruments of lust . . . the tribade [lesbian] will become rampant" [Loves]. Lucian attests to the widespread
practice of pederasty in the Roman period, and also the range of public opinion on the subject.


William A. Percy

LUDWIG II (1845–1886)

King of Bavaria during the period of German unification. Born at Nymphenburg Palace near Munich, he ascended the throne at the age of 18. In his early youth he was not only handsome but also intelligent and kind-hearted. The death of his father and his premature accession kept him from attending a university. One of his first acts was to invite the financially desperate Richard Wagner to Munich, promising him every favor, including the rebuilding of a theatre so that his operas could be performed. Despite opposition by officials and the public to the enormous sums that Ludwig devoted to the composer’s projects, the king remained loyal to him throughout his life, supporting the construction of the opera house in Bayreuth where Wagner at last saw all his work performed.

In the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 Bavaria unwisely sided with Catholic Austria and was easily defeated; the peace treaty served to make Bavaria dependent upon Prussia and ensured its involvement in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71, which culminated in the creation of the German Empire with Prussia at its head. Ludwig was pressured by Bismarck to copy in his own hand a letter inviting the Prussian king to become emperor—an act which he himself regarded as disgraceful.

Toward women Ludwig was completely indifferent, and attempts to arrange a marriage for him came to naught. He had at least fleeting homosexual relations with Paul of Thurn and Taxis, and a more enduring liaison with Richard Hornig, who exerted such influence over him that in official circles the favorite was called “the secret Chancellor of Bavaria.” Their love had its crises, but at other times Hornig was the only one who had access to the king, and his decision to marry was experienced by Ludwig almost as treason. But the king found a successor, a certain Hesselscherwet, who later, after his death, gave frank and revealing testimony to a secret committee of the Bavarian Parliament: that Ludwig had a weakness for simple country boys, youths with muscular arms and legs whom he could observe stripped to the waist while they tilled the fields. For men in uniform he had far less fondness and never cared to wear uniforms himself. When he had to appear in uniform, he wore a fanciful adaptation of the costume of the uhlans that bordered on masquerade. Ludwig also had a love affair with a Viennese actor named Josef Kainz whom he watched perform as the sole member of the audience. But the actor had too great a need of a genuine public and tired of the liaison.

The psychological idiosyncrasies and peculiarities of the king gave rise to what Thomas Szasz has called “the first psychiatric assassination committed successfully and in broad daylight on an important personality.” In fact, the death of Ludwig II on the evening of June 13, 1886, is shrouded in mystery. His body was found floating on the surface of the Stamberger See along with the body of the psychiatrist Bernhard von Gudden, the Director of the Insane Asylum in Munich, who was part of a commission appointed to take the king into custody when the lavish expenditures on his new castles became impossible for the state. The castles themselves were expressions of the royal fantasy, executed in a series of derivative styles anticipating the interior decoration that was later to be recognized as a homosexual specialty. The death of the king was commemorated in literary works composed by nearly all of the great contemporary homosexual writers. As an eccentric on the throne, Ludwig of Bavaria was the last of
the crowned monarchs who—untroubled by regard for "public opinion" or the prying and insinuation of the media—could freely indulge their homoerotic and other whims.


Warren Johansson

LULLY, JEAN-BAPTISTE (1632–1687)

French operatic composer. Born in Florence, he originally had the name Giovanni Battista Lulli. A self-taught violinist, he went to France in 1648 and four years later entered the service of the young Louis XIV. He became chamber composer and conductor of one of the king's orchestras. Until 1672 he composed numerous ballets, then he obtained a patent for the production of opera and established the Académie Royale de Musique, where he enjoyed a virtual monopoly on the operatic stage. Through lucky, sometimes unscrupulous speculations he amassed a fortune from his opera productions. By adapting the Italian opera to French taste, he set the style for French opera down to the late eighteenth century.

Among his contemporaries Lully inspired as much hatred as admiration. The hallmark of his character was impudence, which went so far as to submit to the king and queen of France a marriage contract in which he styled himself "son of a Florentine gentleman," when his father was still living as a humble miller. Thanks to his powerful protectors and to the King, who closed his eyes to the composer's conduct, Lully could enjoy relative immunity from the legal consequences of his scandalous behavior, which in the late seventeenth century could still be punished by death at the stake. He seems to have been homosexual throughout his life, even though when compromised in 1661 he chose to marry, and for a decade behaved like a model husband of the epoch, siring a child each year by his wife and otherwise living like an "honest bourgeois of Paris."

Yet on becoming director of the Opera in 1672, he abandoned himself entirely to his homosexual inclinations. His reputation was so well established that his enemies lost no occasion to castigate him in malicious verses that circulated in manuscript. A document of 1676 written by one Henri Guichard, whom Lully had accused of trying to poison him, referred explicitly to his "infamous debauches and acts of libertinism" with which, however, he did not "wish to soil the ears of the magistrates." The fiasco of a fireworks display that Lully had arranged in 1674 provoked the sarcastic comment that he might soon be on a pyre in the Place de Grève, the locale where sodomites were burned at the stake. Once again Lully erected a façade of heterosexuality by taking as mistress one Mademoiselle Certain, a talented harpsichordist. However, the affair ended badly for him when in 1684 he fell in love with a page named Brunet and was not ashamed to expose the liaison to the eyes of his wife and children, and out of jealousy Mlle Certain denounced him to Louis XIV. His anger provoked, the king had the page arrested, imprisoned at Saint-Lazare and given a good flogging, in the course of which he allegedly denounced several great nobles of the Court. Lully received a formal reproof from the Marquis de Seignelay and was warned that if he ever reverted to such practices, the king would make a striking example of him. This episode too gave rise to burlesque verses satirizing the composer's fall from grace, but by June of 1685 he regained the royal favor, and once more threw his detractors off the scent by pursuing an affair with a noble widow, the Duchess de la Ferté. At the same time, however, he resumed his homosexual adventures, now
in a manner that brought him to the consulting room of Dr. Jeannot, a specialist in venereal diseases. It is possible that his mysterious death in consequence of a minor wound on his foot that became infected and gangrened, despite the best efforts of the physicians, had this as its cause. Beyond a doubt, the life of dissipation which Lully had led hastened his end. His death was hailed with an outcry of joy by his enemies, and a controversy ensued between them and his admirers who defended his homosexual passion on the ground that it had been shared by "the greatest heroes and noblemen."

Even with his failings, Lully was a composer whose genius was acknowledged by all his contemporaries, friend and foe alike. His homosexual escapades reveal him as a man of intense sensuality who enjoyed life to the fullest and boldly took risks in his ceaseless search for pleasure.


Warren Johansson

LYNES, GEORGE PLATT
(1907–1955)

American photographer. One of the more significant figures in American photography between 1930 and 1955, Lynes was born in East Orange, New Jersey, and educated in private schools. He visited Paris in 1925, the first of several summers he spent there. In Paris he was associated with André Gide, Pavel Tchelitchew, Jean Cocteau, and Gertrude Stein, the last two of whom were subjects for early portraits. He began to teach himself photography in 1927. In 1933 Lynes decided he had enough mastery to begin a new career, and opened a commercial studio in New York. He rapidly became a successful fashion photographer, contributing to Harper's Bazaar and Vogue.

In 1935 he was commissioned to record the work of the American Ballet, which he continued to do until his death, compiling a noted body of dance photography. Despite his prominence, in 1945 he closed his studio and moved to California; three years later he returned to New York, but was unable to repeat his earlier success. Declared bankrupt in 1951, he spent the four years before his death from cancer in obscurity.

Lynes was closely associated with such homosexual artists as Marsden Hartley (with whom he shared a studio in the 1940s), the circle around Paul Cadmus and Jared French (both of whom he photographed), the American homoerotic artist Neel Bates, and British photographer Cecil Beaton.

His work is an important expression of two artistic currents of his day. In the 1920s, photography turned away from the pictoralists' soft-focus aesthetic; Lynes' male nudes present the reality of men's bodies for our precise observation, almost as objects of reverence. In Paris he was influenced by Tchelitchew, Man Ray, and surrealism; his "mythological" subjects employ its concepts. All of his work shows a sense of theatrical staging and dramatic effects achieved by his use of lighting.

While his mythological works—safe because their ostensible subject was myth, not men—and some of his dance photographs are strongly homoerotic, Lynes felt he could not openly express his homosexuality in his art without threatening his career. He did, however, circulate overtly homoerotic photographs among his friends, and between 1951 and his death he published homoerotic images under the pseudonym Roberto Rolf and Robert Orville in the Swiss homophile journal Der Kreis. The conflict he felt is illuminated by the fact that, before his death, he destroyed two bodies of work in his archives: his nudes and explicitly sexual images, and his fashion work.


Donald Mader