E. EARLY MODERN EUROPE

This period, broadly from the 15th through the 18th centuries, saw the spread of Renaissance ideals throughout Europe. The revival of Greco-Roman culture, particularly as evident in the philosophical doctrine known as Neo-platonism, fostered a cautious exploration of the theme of pederasty. The Reformation and Counterreformation caused an intensification of religious zealotry, in which charges of sodomy were hurled on both sides. The exploration of the New World produced some findings, interpreted at the outset in a totally hostile manner, on cross-cultural comparisons in regard to homosexual behavior (see Meso-American and South American Indians; IV.F). There is much detailed evidence for legal prosecutions and executions of male homosexuals (see also the following sections on individual countries; and "Law," XX).

Shows that beginning in the 13th century some theologians assimilated lesbianism to male homosexuality as worthy of death. However, only about ten executions are known, chiefly of women who had made use of a dildo.


An influential study by the late French historian on the link between the definition of madness and authoritarian social controls. Note that the English version derives from an abridged French edition. For full references, consult the revised full text: Histoire de la folie à l'age classique (Paris: Gallimard, 1972; 613 pp.)

Papers covering virtually the whole of western Europe, but with special attention to the Netherlands.

626. GILBERT, ARTHUR N. "Conceptions of Homosexuality and Sodomy in Western History," JH, 6 (1980-81), 57-68.
Contrasts the biographical approach with broader inquiries of labeling and intolerance. In the latter, Gilbert argues that irrational fears of anal intercourse may have played a greater role than is usually allowed.


628. KARLSTADT, ANDREAS BODENSTEIN VON. *De coelibatu, monachatu et viduitate ...* Wittenberg: Melchior Lotter, 1521. 36 pp. A characteristic Lutheran attack on monastic vices, esp. sodomy and masturbation.

629. MONTER, E. WILLIAM. "Sodomy and Heresy in Early Modern Switzerland," JH, 6 (1980-81), 42-55. Compares sodomy trials from Protestant Geneva with those in Catholic Fribourg, showing also an urban vs. rural contrast.

630. MURRAY, STEPHEN, and KENT GERARD. "Renaissance Sodomite Subcultures?" in: *Among Men, Among Women.* Amsterdam: Universiteit, 1983 [Congress preprints], 183-96. Surveys our present knowledge, chiefly from records of trials and executions, with suggestions for further research.


Although the Reformer John Calvin was probably not homosexual, the efforts of Catholic polemists to discredit him by such accusations form an interesting chapter in cultural history.

Analysis of assumptions and findings of a decade of study of homosexual behavior in Western Europe.

F. BRITISH ISLES

Students of British history are beset by two opposing temptations: to regard the islands as sui generis, at most linking them to the English-speaking world (exceptionalism); or to regard them as offshore dependencies of the European continent (Europeanism). Both trends may be found in actual British attitudes toward homosexual behavior. Exceptionalism is evident in a preference for slow change, rather than abrupt breaks; a desire to preserve propriety and respectability, sometimes at the cost of even forbidding discussion of sexual matters; and a tendency to avoid theoretical approaches among intellectuals. On the other hand, the reception of Christian hostility toward homosexuality, the Reformation inflection of them, and in recent times the emergence of sexual reform attest successive waves of influence from the European continent. Legal aspects are treated under XX.D; the public school tradition under XI.A, and military history under XII.A.


Ackland (b. 1906) describes her relationship with the writer Sylvia Townsend Warner, offering insights on the situation of British lesbians in the first half of the present century.

638. BARNARD (BERNARD), NICHOLAS. The Penitent Death of ... John Atherton. Dublin: Society of Stationers,
1641.

On gay life in today's Ireland.

Focuses on the trial and execution of the Earl of Castlehaven (1631) for sodomy.

641. BLOCH, IWAN. *Das Geschlechtsleben in England*. By Eugen Duhren (pseud.). Berlin: Barsdorf, 1901-03. 3 vols.
This massive history is a quarry of information. Regrettably, the English version--*Sexual Life in England Past and Present* (London: Aldor, 1938; also several other printings)--is heavily abridged and should be avoided.

Argues that a major shift developed in the course of the seventeenth century from an older, quasimagical concept of homosexual behavior to a stigmatized, subcultural form, which foreshadows our own.

A useful synthesis of outbreaks of antisexual attitudes and their forms of social organization.

In this popularized panorama, see pp. 19, 23, 47-48, 67, 75, 139, 144, 149, 167, 218, and 233.

Something of a shaggy dog story, inasmuch as little evidence in this potentially fascinating area is offered. See also his: "Ho Hum: Another Work of the Devil," *JH*, 6 (1981-82), 69-78.

On controversies about sexuality in the 1890s.