Inasmuch as homosexual behavior is practiced by individuals, the biographical method has often proved appealing—hence the "hall of fame" approach singling out homosexual notables, who are often presented as moral exemplars set apart from their historical context. (See "Biographies: Collective," III.T). A contrasting historiographic trend seeks to determine context, and then to situate the individuals within it. This approach, often associated with the Social Construction research program, has its own problems stemming from its tendency to reduce individuals to the status of mere puppets of their social situation and to obscure continuities linking experience from one era to another. There is also a trend to broaden the scope of inquiry to comprise homosociality, including same-sex friendship, whether or not this be expressed genitaly (see "Friendship," XIV.K). Another area of uncertainty is the parallelism that has often been assumed—rather than demonstrated—between lesbian and gay male experience. Historically, many cultures have not regarded the two as homologous. This section cites short methodological studies as well as larger works attempting synthesis.

Survey of the history of male homosexuality and lesbianism in Europe from classical antiquity to the present, citing many texts. While much is understandably culled from other sources, this major study is useful for Spain and Portugal, and for statutory law (including that pertaining to lesbianism).

Collection of papers treating the history of sexuality from ancient Greece onwards, several directly relevant. Translated from Communications (Paris), no. 35 (1982).

Methodological reflections which seek to clarify the problem of continuity in sexual history by proposing a threefold typology. Boswell proposes to apply the medieval conflict between nominalism and essentialism as a
model for understanding current controversies.


Stimulating but rapid survey of a vast domain; see pp. 3-4, pp. 3-4, 52-53, 84-85, 154-55, 201-10.


Surveys the persecution of male homosexuals through the application of the death penalty, from Biblical times through the Nazi era.


Outline of changing concepts of homosexual behavior from the Greeks to the present.

410. DANIEL, MARC (pseud.). "Essai de méthodologie pour l'étude des aspects homosexuels de l'histoire." Arcadie, no. 131 (November 1964), 497-505; no. 132 (December 1964), 559-65.

Continues in successive issues of the newspaper until 3:10 (May 8, 1981), 34. Examines the historical role of such concepts as the unnatural, decadence, and sexism. Largely incorporated in: Dykes, Homolexis (New York: Gay Academic Union, 1985; 177 pp.).

Literary-historical survey of "minority" sexual behavior.

The title notwithstanding, this book offers a comprehensive study of sexual and educational relationships between men and boys with special reference to historical aspects over the centuries (not limited to Greece). There is considerable emphasis on literary works and legal sources.

Collection of essays by a French historian who has become influential through his pioneering use of quantitative and analytical methods. Of general, rather than specifically homosexual interest.

Stimulating, but sometimes opaque essay on the conceptual foundations of modern sexuality, which has had a great influence on the Social Construction school of homosexual history. This programmatic text--published in Paris in 1976 as La volonté de savoir--was to be followed by five more volumes offering supporting detail for recent centuries. Although this project was not realized, two volumes dealing instead with classical antiquity did appear just before his death in 1984.

416. Friele, Karen-Christine. De vorvant bare ...
A noted Norwegian lesbian activist and scholar presents aspects of homosexual history from Old Testament times to ca. 1950.

Crises, 8 (1984), 33-56.
Argues that the late 19th- and 20th-century stigmatization of homosexual behavior is a consequence of competitive capitalism and bureaucratic organization.

Reviews history from the Hittites through the Middle Ages in a new theoretical perspective.

Signals such methodological faults as the assertion of assumptions as proven, monotheism, semantic distortion, ethnocentrism, anachronism, historicism, the pathetic fallacy, and tunnel history.

419. KEPNER, JIM. Becoming a People ... A 4,000 Year Gay and Lesbian Chronology. Los Angeles: National Gay Archives, 1983. 79 pp.
Persons and events from history marshalled chronologically, with introductory reflections on method. "Prepublication Edition" containing some imperfections.


Book publication of a special number of JH (6:1/2; Fall-Winter 1980-81) containing twelve papers of exceptional quality (high Middle Ages to the 20th century).

Study of remarkable scope with considerable indirect application to homosexuality.

423. PADCUG, ROBERT. "Bibliography," Committee on Lesbian and Gay History Newsletter (Summer 1983), 12-16.
Classified list of 119 items, many annotated. Continued in Newsletter, no. 8 (Summer 1984) [published in ICLA Bulletin, no. 2], 38-42 (142 items).

A gay historian attempts to fuse the Social Construction approach to the history of the development of sex-
ual behavior with Marxist immanence. See also Bert Hansen, "Historical Construction of Homosexuality," ibid., 66-73.


427. STONE, LAWRENCE. "Sex in the West." New Republic (July 8, 1985), 25-37. A noted historian's thoughtful synthesis for the lay reader of publications in the history of sexuality over the last decade.


429. USSEL, JOSEF MARIA WILLEM VAN. Sexualunterdrückung. Hamburg: Rowohlt, 1970. 248 pp. A Belgian scholar interprets the sexual history of Europe as a pattern of repression—a view that is probably overstated. This work, translated from a Dutch original (1968), derives from a thesis emphasizing the 18th century, which remains the most useful aspect of the book in its several published versions.

B. ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND EGYPT

The civilizations of the ancient Near East, here embracing an arc from Egypt to Iran, are difficult for the nonspecialist to penetrate. Because of the hermetic complexities of the written and archaeological evidence, progress in our knowledge is of necessity in the hands of trained specialists. In evaluating the citations listed below it is well to bear in mind that some are relatively specialized and technical, while others are addressed to the lay reader. In addition to their intrinsic importance, the civilizations of the ancient Near East are significant as a foundation for ancient Greece (see III.C) and a major influence on the Bible (see VII.B).
See Chapter 8, "The Pathology of Akhenaten" (pp. 133-39), advancing a dubious medical explanation for the heretical ruler's androgynous appearance, which has often been remarked.

Texts shedding light on the attitudes toward sexuality in general, and about homosexuality, including anal intercourse. See also his: "Medicine in Ancient Mesopotamia," History of Science, 8 (1969), 94-105.

432. BOTTERO, JEAN, and H. PETZCHOW. "Homosexualität," Reallexikon der Assyriologie, 4 [1975], 459-68.
Well-documented survey in French of ancient Mesopotamian written and artistic evidence.

Argues that there were fewer prohibitions against sex in these early societies than in our own time.

Argues, chiefly from mythological evidence, that the Egyptians used anal intercourse to symbolize dominance. For a broader perspective on ancient Egypt, see the author's Sexual Variance in Society and History (New York: Wiley, 1976), 58-73.

A useful survey, critical and well referenced.

Detects an Egyptian model for Sappho's poetry.

In Iran the procreative ethic of Zoroastrianism produced sometimes virulent condemnations of homosexuality, though Herodotus (1:135) mentions it as flourishing there (p. 149 ff.).

438. GOEDICKE, HANS. "Unrecognized Sportings," Journal