

project for revision of the Bishops' Bible of 1566 that produced the so-called King James Version of 1611, which on its merits won a firm place in the Protestant churches and in English literature. Although it is a Renaissance translation that could not go beyond the store of learning available in its time, fundamentalist Protestants have invested it with an almost sacred and revealed character, even refusing to abandon it for more recent English renderings such as the Revised Version (1881-95) or the Revised Standard Version.

The private life of James I impinged upon his public life in a manner that betrayed his erotic proclivities. He relied upon favorites whose qualifications consisted more in physical charm than in talent for government. His adolescent passion for Esme d'Aubigny, and his friendship for Patrick Gray, Alexander Lindsay, and others had already provoked comment. But because the resources of the Scottish exchequer were skimpier than those of the English, these friendships had no real impact on the regime in Edinburgh. Three favorites have left their names in the chronicles of the time, James Hay, John Ramsay, and the Englishman Philip Herbert. Of these the first enjoyed James' indulgence the longest; he was heaped with honors and benefitted from a marriage with the daughter of the Earl of Northumberland; the third was married to the daughter of the Earl of Sussex, and on the occasion of the festivities the dramatist Ben Jonson composed a masque entitled *Cupid Pursued*. The Englishman had a shorter period of royal grace than the others because of his faults of character.

More important than any of these was a young Scotsman named Robert Carr, who managed to break a limb in front of James at a tourney in March 1607. At the sight of this blond athlete James' heart quivered, and in no time the handsome young man was on the rise. He was named Gentleman of the Chamber, then Viscount Rochester and later Earl of Somerset (in this capacity he was the first Scot to sit in

the House of Lords). As the leading personality of the court, he was a force with whom ambassadors and even Robert Cecil had to reckon. That their liaison was homosexual was not doubted by James' contemporaries, but the young man was something more than a lover to him, he was also a spiritual heir. On the negative side, the courtier was extravagant and insolent, and his behavior contributed no little to the decline of James' popularity. In 1615 Carr was disgraced, and in the following year he and his wife were convicted and sent to prison, where they remained until 1622.

James' choice then fell upon George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham after 1617. Of a distinguished family, the handsome and cultivated youth knew that what the sovereign wanted was an adopted son—a role that he had no difficulty in playing. The aging king may not have had a physical relationship with him, and was not jealous of his female interests; but the two were recognized by their homosexual contemporaries as a classic pair: a king and an all-powerful favorite. The life of James I illustrates how the general opprobrium attached to "sodomitical" relationships did not interfere with the passion of a ruler who occupied the throne and conferred his favors upon young men of his choosing, who by their privileged estate and position were exempt from the death penalty that threatened the rest of his subjects.

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JAMES, HENRY (1843-1916)

American novelist, playwright, and critic. His father, Henry James senior, was a writer on theology influenced by the mystical works of Emmanuel Swedenborg; his brother William became a distinguished

professor of psychology and philosophy at Harvard University.

Finding the study of law not to his liking, Henry James began to contribute reviews and short stories to American periodicals. For a number of years his fiction showed a decided debt to the conventions of popular works of the time, a tutelage from which he gradually emancipated himself so as to become *sui generis*: "the Master." He chose to reside mainly in Europe, at first in France and Italy, but increasingly in England. A novel of the middle period, *The Bostonians* (1886), portrays a close emotional relationship between the wealthy feminist Olive Chancellor and her acolyte Verena Tarrant, which is spoiled by the intervention of a selfish young lawyer. James' most characteristic works of this period, however, focus on the "international theme," the encounter of callow but innocent Americans with European sophistication. In what is probably the most poignant of these works, *Daisy Miller* (1870), a young American girl dies of a fever after an encounter at the Colosseum in Rome.

Related to male homosexuality are "The Pupil" (1891), which concerns a mentoring relationship, and the ghost story, "The Turn of the Screw" (1898). In the latter novella, a young governess is given charge of two young children, a boy and a girl, in a remote country house. She finds that the deceased figures of her own predecessor and of the sinister valet Peter Quint have returned to possess them. The boy Miles dies at the hands of Quint, who—it is intimated—had corrupted him during life. James left the story deliberately ambiguous so that it is always possible that the occurrences are hysterical fantasies on the part of the governess.

James's last three major works, *The Wings of the Dove* (1902), *The Ambassadors* (1903), and *The Golden Bowl* (1904), return to the "international theme," but on a level of complexity and abstraction that makes them entirely different from his earlier treatments of it. More than any

others, these late works have attracted both devotion and hostility—the latter stemming from their highly wrought literary style and baffling elusiveness. Their fascination lies in part in the sense that James has glimpsed truths that are ultimately inexpressible, and has gone as far as he could to make them at least mystically present. It may be, however, that the novelist was unconsciously aware that he had other themes that he might have dealt with, but in the repressive climate of the age in which he lived did not dare to attempt.

The question of James' sexuality remains puzzling. He never married and, though he cherished many friendships with women, no heterosexual genital relations are recorded. His letters reveal an infatuation with a macho sculptor, Hendrik Andersen, whom he met, however, only in 1899. It has also been asserted that the writer was in love with his brother, William James. It is of interest that their sister, Alice James, an invalid who died young, was inclined toward lesbian feelings.

Whether James simply had a very low sexual drive or a formidable capacity to repress the homosexual feelings that surely visited him from time to time will probably never be known. Certain features of his personality are characteristic of upper-class homosexuals of the period: fastidiousness and horror of "vulgarity," sensitivity to art (albeit limited by dilettantism), extraordinary attention to social nuances, social climbing (akin to Marcel Proust's), and aestheticized cosmopolitanism.

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JAPAN

Japan is an island nation of about 125 million people on the northwestern rim of the Pacific Ocean, heavily influ-